■ Magazine / Q1

Ingeniously Inno Sotto

■ SundayBiz / B1

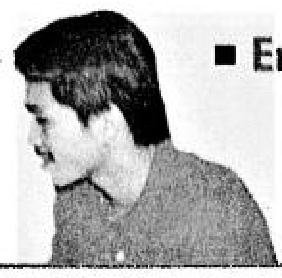
US college graduate's bet on RP pays off

■ Lifestyle/ D1

Stylish tributes to mothers

■ Sports / A26

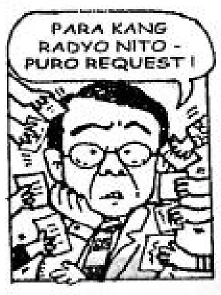
Pacquiao refuses to bare 'surefire' plot vs Marquez



■ Entertainment / C1

Jasmine Trias makes it to top 5

Candidates' woe: 'Gimme' voters with long wish lists


PARA KANG RADYO NITO - PURO REQUEST!

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT'S SAID that candidates for elective posts will do almost anything to get a vote, so some people push it by asking for the moon. Requests for medical

CANDIDATES/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Sunday, May 2, 2004 ★★ 84 pages / 10 sections / vol. 9 / no. 144 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Beloved Nick, goodbye; the whole nation owes you

Editor's Note: The ashes of Nick Joaquin, National Artist for Literature, will be interred today at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani.

By Sylvia L. Mayuga
Contributor

SO WHO says this nation is poor?

How can it be poor when it mothered and

BELOVED/ A4

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE CHOSEN ONE, President Macapagal, is reportedly scheduled to visit the Iglesia ni Cristo Central Office in Diliman, Quezon City, on Monday to be formally informed of her "anointment."

Iglesia going for Gloria

Erap confirms religious sect endorsement

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Carlito Pablo, Armand Nocum and Norman Bordadora

PALACE sources yesterday said the Iglesia ni Cristo, a Christian sect which is known to vote as a bloc and is believed to command from 2 to 4 million votes, has given its nod to Ms Macapagal despite the widespread perception it would support the opposition, and would likely make known its decision on Monday.

The INC endorsement of Ms Macapagal was confirmed by jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, who said he got the news early yesterday.

"I heard it is GMA [Ms Macapagal]. I got a call before lunch," Estrada said, but declined to identify the caller.

Opposition sources told the INQUIRER Estrada had received the confirmation from an INC liaison, Col. Filemon Cuevas, who is a brother of former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas, an INC member.

Estrada said the news had left him "depressed" because of his close friendship with the main opposition presidential candidate, Fernando Poe Jr.

"I cannot do anything because I'm in jail, All I can do is give my own support to FPJ. I remain optimistic that FPJ will still win. I hope so," he said.

IGLESIA/ A4

FPJ: No comment; Ping: Fight goes on

By Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo

CAMPAIGN officials of Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said that the senator will go on with his candidacy even if the Iglesia ni Cristo confirms its choice of President Macapagal-Arroyo as its anointed.

In Tarlac City, the main opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. would not comment on reports that the INC may have already chosen to endorse the President.

"I wouldn't like to comment as of now. *Wala muna.* No comment *muna,*" Poe repeatedly told reporters.

Poe flew by helicopter from Manila to hold two rallies in the city and in Concepcion town in the province known to be the bailiwick of the Aquino family.

Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, leader of the faction of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino that supports Lacson's candidacy, said the loss of the INC endorsement only means that the Lacson camp has to double its efforts in the last week of the campaign.

"There is no feeling that he'd back out. We'll continue the fight," Aquino said.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Lacson on his mobile phone but he was not returning calls.

A source close to Lacson said the senator was in a series of meetings and could not be immediately available for comment.

Aquino admitted receiving reports that the INC had already decided to endorse Ms Macapagal but "unless I hear it from the participants themselves, I would still wait for the official announcement."

"I've talked to people who said they are sure a decision has already been made. As to who (has been endorsed), they are not as sure," Aquino said.

Lito Anzures, a member of the executive committee of the Poe-led opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino yesterday said there was indeed talk that the INC was going to endorse the President.

But he said "all is not lost and for us, we're not going to give up until May 9," the eve of the elections.

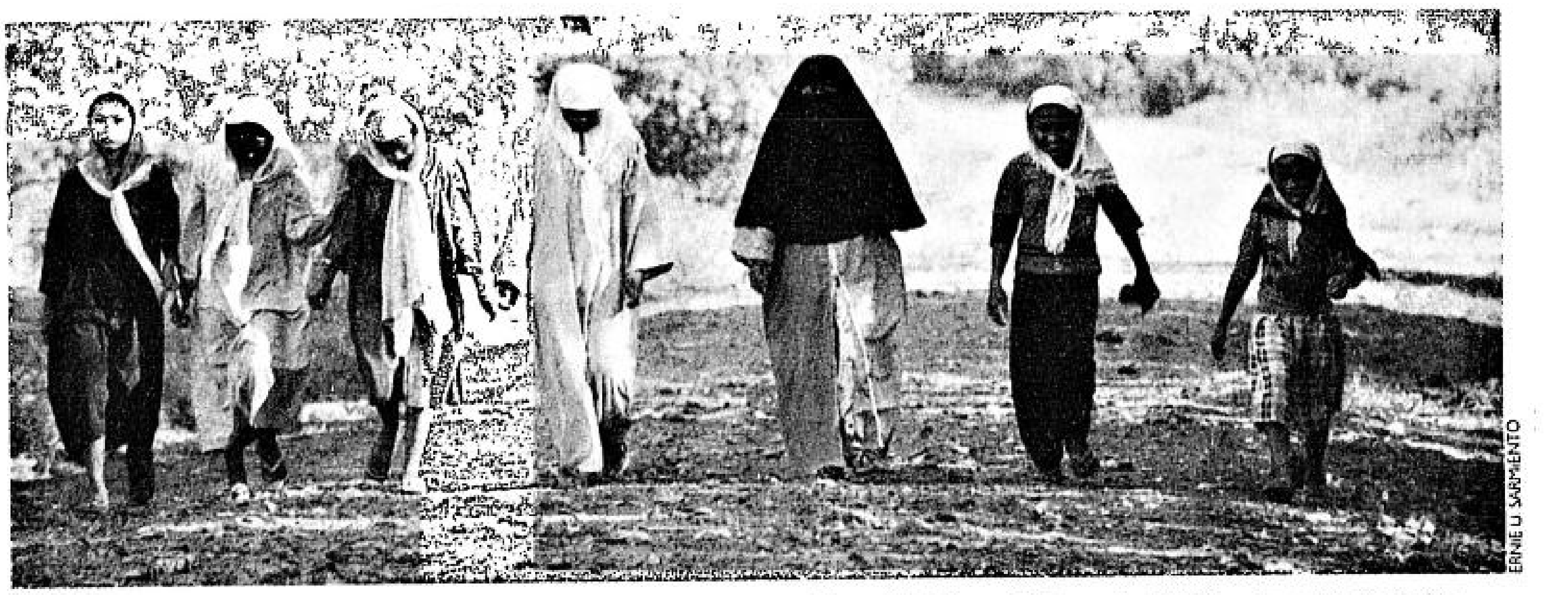
Anzures admitted that the opposition had received reports that sample ballots purporting to be from the INC and containing the name of Ms Macapagal as the chosen candidate had started circulating.

But he said there was no way of knowing if the INC was indeed the source of the sample ballots.

"We all know that as elections draw near, a lot of disinformation happens," Anzures said.

He confirmed reports that Poe

FPJ/ A4


ERNIE U SARMIENTO

LIKE A WALK IN THE PARK: After the government's all-out war to recover Camp Abubakar, which was the MILF headquarters in Barira, Maguindanao, the battleground also widely believed by RP-US intelligence authorities to have harbored and trained al-Qaida-linked terrorists in the region is now turning into a peaceful enclave for Muslims who have returned to their homes to pick up pieces of their lives.

MAY DAY PROTEST

Labor says GMA's 'freebies' an insult

By Leila B. Salaverria, Tina Santos and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THEY CALLED President Macapagal-Arroyo's package of free concerts and free train rides an insult and a "consuelo de bobo," and vowed to get back at her in the May 10 elections.

But while rich with denunciations of the government, yesterday's Labor Day marches and rallies by tens of thousands of workers across the country passed peacefully—the third straight year the day was marked without a confrontation with the police.

"We are very happy about that," Western Police District spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod said, praising the workers for their discipline. "The groups were very orderly and stayed in the designated areas."

In Manila, the rallies by several thousand workers representing various groups centered at the Chino Roces Bridge and the Liwasang Bonifacio.

About 5,000 members of militant unions massed in Calamba City in Laguna, while almost 40,000 workers held separate protests in key Visayan cities.

At the heart of their demands is a P125 across-the-board wage increase. The current minimum wage in the National Capital Region stands at P280.

Ms Macapagal, speaking at the Yazaki Torres electronic car parts factory in Calamba, and later before the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, agreed it was

LABOR/ A6

MANDY NAVASERO

HIS WAY. There was nary a snag during the performance on Friday night of Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli under the auspices of socialite Baby Arenas.

BOCELLI CONCERT

He made us feel it's a better world

By Chelo Banal-Formoso
Lifestyle Editor

THANK GOD Andrea Bocelli chose to take lessons from Italian maestro Franco Corelli, training that he paid for by playing pop music in bars.

If not for the vocal training, he would have been just another blind pop performer. Not that there would have been anything wrong with that, but it would have been a waste of a perfect timbre. In good company with Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Jose Feliciano, Diane Schuur, etc., to be sure, but one doubts that he would have done 13 recordings, sold 50 million CDs and played huge venues in all continents.

Today, because he magically crosses over from pop to classical and back, Bocelli is an artist who makes his audience feel the world is a better place whenever and wherever he performs.

That was exactly the feeling the Araneta Coliseum crowd came away with the other night after his much-awaited concert.

Like a glass that is either half-empty or half-full, depending on the perceiver, Bocelli may strike you as either a stiff or an effortless performer. He has none of the blindism that Charles, Wonder and other sightless artists exhibit in performance, but then again, his music is not exactly upbeat and toe-tapping.

Bocelli sings *bel canto*—arias from well-loved operas, sacred hymns, Italian love songs, although he is also known to surprise his audience every now and then with a pop number, depending on how he feels the audience is responding to his repertoire.

That he didn't break into Frank Sinatra's "My Way" is perhaps a tribute to the Filipino audience, which was enthusiastic and respectful from start to finish.

Impeccably dressed in Armani suit, crisp white shirt and satin bow tie, Bocelli stood in one spot, right next to his handpicked conductor Marcello Rota, who led

HE MADE/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol Region, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/05/02/042

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

‘Ouch!’—Poe ads affect GMA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MOVIE idol Fernando Poe Jr.'s anti-administration campaign advertisements have hit home.

The ads, which show Poe being endorsed by Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and ousted President Joseph Estrada, and which accuse President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration of corruption and inefficiency and of using public funds for her campaign, had Malacanang crying foul yesterday.

"When the campaign started, FPJ said he wanted a non-partisan campaign and that he would give due respect to the Office of the President. Now, he is proving to be a puppet of his campaign advisers and allowing himself to be used to hit the President," said Michael Defensor, Ms Macapagal's campaign spokesperson.

Defensor said Poe's campaign ad telling voters that Ms Macapagal had been misusing government funds that could otherwise be used to serve the poor was a cheap shot at the President and an "act of desperation" by the opposition.

According to Defensor, the President is doing her duty to provide health, housing, education, water and other services to the people even if she is a candidate.

Defensor also said Estrada might have forgotten that it was he who was booted out of office for corruption and bad governance.

"It's ironic and ridiculous for him to say that," Defensor said of Estrada's ad endorsing Poe and urging voters to vote for the actor to end the "corruption and rot *(katiwalian at kabulukan)*" in the government.

More padded voters' lists uncovered

By Martin P. Marfil

THE COMMISSION on Elections continued to draw flak for its error-plagued voters' list after representatives of political parties uncovered more cases of list padding in four areas in the country.

The new cases of padded voters' lists were discovered in Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities and the town of Subic in Zambales.

Earlier, cases of massive padding of voters' lists were reported in Pasig City, Las Piñas and Taguig where a dramatic surge in the number of registered voters were noted. *(See related story on Page A23)*.

The opposition has blamed the administration for the anomaly, saying the latter was laying the groundwork for massive cheating at the polls.

The Commission on Elections had admitted responsibility for the errors in the voters' list but said it could no longer do anything to rectify them, prompting representatives of political parties to describe the Comelec as "inutile."

In a meeting yesterday at Club Filipino, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos blew his top.

"Let us not insult the institution... Let us not call each other names... You can still question voters," Abalos said when Alyansa ng Pag-Asa representative Lorna Kapunan described the Comelec as "inutile."

Abalos reiterated that they would use the old voters' list together with the new list to ensure that no one would be disenfranchised.

GOV'T BORROWING BLAMED

Ex-treasurer warns: 'Debt volcano' about to erupt

By Volt Contreras

UNABATED borrowing by the Macapagal administration in the last three years has brought the Philippines to the brink of a serious debt crisis which could explode in the face of the winner of this year's elections.

Former National Treasurer Leonor Briones, who likened the debt scenario to a seething "debt volcano," issued the grim warning yesterday as she foresaw the country plunging into a debt crisis with the government's payables now placed at over P5 trillion.

If President Macapagal-Arroyo loses, Briones told a media forum, her successor would surely have to absorb the impact of the "debt volcano's" eruption.

Briones, who headed the Bureau of Treasury in the Estrada administration, spoke as a convenor of Social Watch Philippines, a member of an international network that monitors poverty reduction around the world.

Succeeding administrations would simply have "no more money left for the poor and marginalized" as debt payments eat up a growing portion of the national budget each year, she said.

"If a new President is elected, the effects of (Ms Macapagal's) policies will be felt for at least a year or maybe more. When the debt volcano explodes, the new President will surely be blamed," Briones said at the weekly Sulo Hotel media forum.

Citing figures from the Department of Finance, Briones said the country's public sector debt stood at P5.16 trillion as of 2002. From 2001 to 2002, she noted that the government debt soared by P759 billion.

The surge in government borrowings pushed up the national government deficit to P199.9 billion in 2003. Total consolidated public sector deficit, which covers local governments and state corporations, reached an "all-time high" of P244.6 billion, she said.

With the interest payments on old debts being paid off with more borrowings, the share of debt payments in the annual national budget swelled from "18 percent in 1999 to 31 percent in 2004."

Briones also disclosed that the allotment for debt service almost doubled or grew by 97.5 percent in the last four years and by 2004 it has become the single biggest slice of the budget pie.

All other programmed government expenditures, especially for social services like health, welfare and education, shrank as more funds went to debt payments, Briones said.

"The best source of funding for paying off our debts is supposedly trade—when we have more dollars earned over (that spent on) imports," she explained. "But if the trade and revenue collections are in poor shape, you are forced to borrow."

Briones said that the winner of the May 10 elections should come up with drastic measures, starting with increased tax collections, to remedy the dire situation.

The SWP, she said, now doubts whether the Philippines can meet its obligations under a 2000 United Nations agreement, the Millennium Development Goals, which called on 189 countries to reduce world poverty by 50 percent by 2015.

Alyansa decries break-in at Pasig HQ

By Michael Lim Ubac

PURE and simple harassment.

That's how supporters of Alyansa ng Pag-Asa presidential candidate Raul Roco described the ransacking of their headquarters in Pasig City before dawn on Friday.

Roco's political strategist Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan said yesterday that important files and documents were missing, but he believed that the incident was not a simple case of burglary but more of "harassment" of Alyansa's candidates and supporters. Alyansa is supporting Echie Ramos in the city's vice mayoral race.

"Our assessment is that whoever perpetrated this only wanted to instill fear," he said. "But we will not be cowed by such cowardly acts. Definitely, this is politically-motivated and not a simple case of theft."

Apart from the documents, television set, an amplifier and microphones, the intruders did not touch other expensive office and communication equipment at the headquarters on 1840 Pasig Boulevard in Barangay Caniogan.

Anthony Sanchez, son of the late Labor Secretary Bobbit Sanchez, who is chair of the Aksyon Demokratiko chapter in Pasig City told Galvez-Tan that the break-in occurred between 2 and 4 a.m. on Friday.

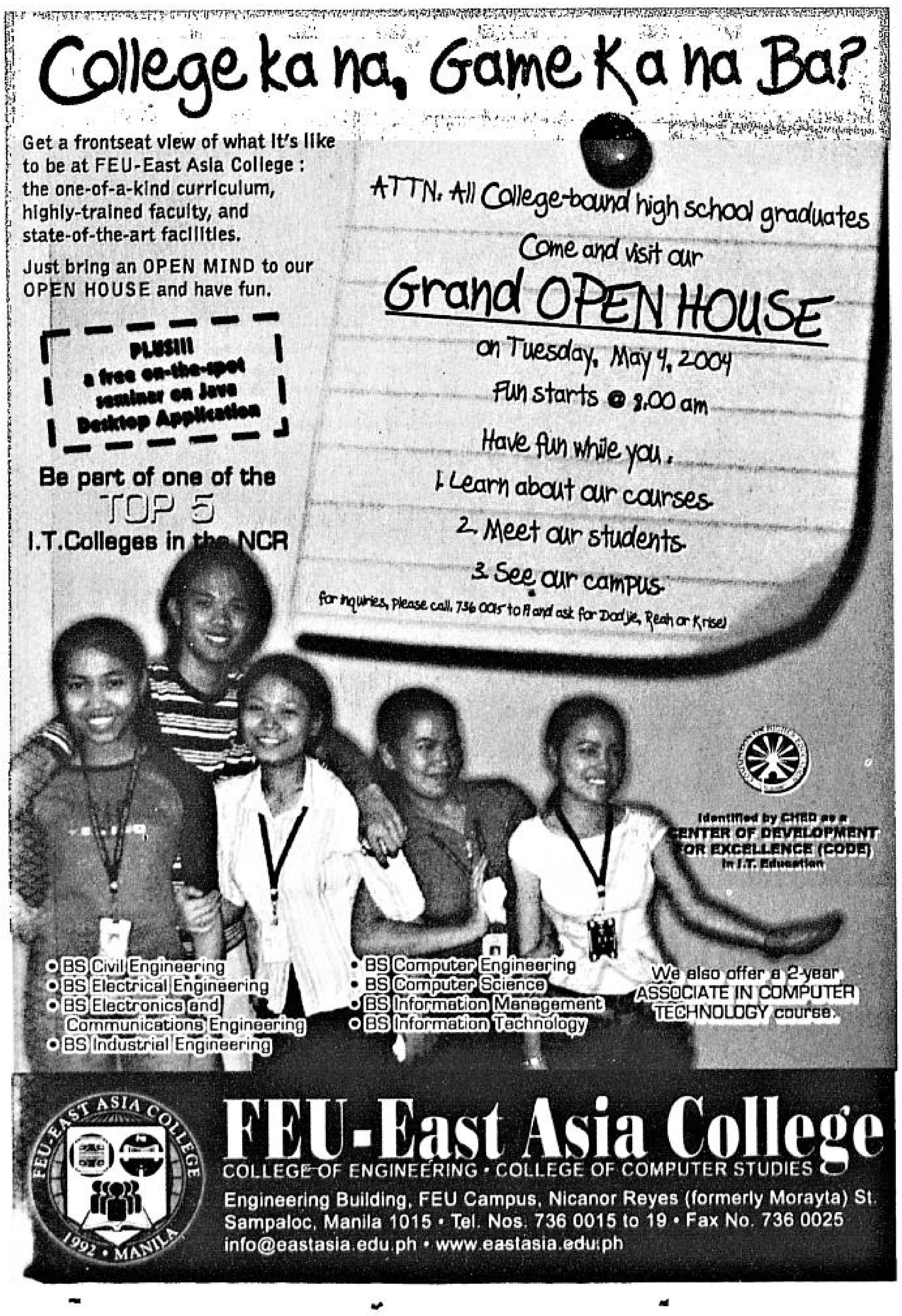
Aksyon Demokratiko is one of the three political parties that coalesced to form Alyansa. Both Alyansa and Aksyon Pasig chapters share the same office.

"Our people stayed in the office until midnight of Thursday. The break-in was discovered at about 8 p.m.," said Galvez-Tan who found it strange that only a 14-inch television set, an inexpensive amplifier, two microphones and assorted office supplies were stolen. "They did not take the other television set, two sets of computers, two printers, a karaoke system and expensive microphones. But they made a mess out of our files."

Patrick Salamat, an Alyansa staff member, told the INQUIRER that the burglars destroyed the gate lock and the main door.

"They opened table drawers, cabinets and folders. I think they were after some documents," he said, adding they had yet to ascertain the nature of the stolen files.

Galvez-Tan said Alyansa theorized that political opponents of their candidates in Pasig may have been behind the break-in.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Cebu Daily News, Inquirer reporter win 3 awards

ADD THREE more to the growing list of awards for the Philippine Daily Inquirer family.

Consistent winner The Cebu Daily News (CDN), a sister publication of the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI), again bagged two major awards—for best edited paper and best in photojournalism—in the recent the 2003 Community Press Awards, making it the best daily community newspaper in the country today.

This year's Most Outstanding Health Journalist award, on the other hand, was given to INQUIRER health reporter Charles E. Buban by the National Press Club (NPC) and the pharmaceutical company Sanofi-Synthelabo for his articles in the INQUIRER's Health and Science section.

A trophy and a cash prize of P30, 000 were presented to Buban by NPC President Antonio Antonio and Sanofi Philippines Vice President Gilles Morizet. The health journalism award was the second to be given by the NPC in five years.

Last year, the CDN made a near sweep of the Cebu Archdiocese Mass Media Award (Camma), winning the top prizes in editorial writing, column-writing and feature writing over other Cebu-based dailies. It also won the best-edited paper award in 2001 and the best in photojournalism trophy the following year.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. handed the trophies and P30,000 in cash to publisher Eileen Mangubat during the awarding ceremony at the Century Park Hotel in Manila. The annual competition is sponsored by the Philippine Press Institute (PPI) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF).

Other winners in the daily category of the Community Press Awards were Sun.Star Davao (Davao City) for the Gerry Gil Foundation best editorial page, Negros Daily Bulletin (Bacolod City) for best environmental reporting, and The Visayan Daily Star (Bacolod City) for best in business and economic reporting.

Winners in the weekly category were Mabuhay (San Fernando City) for best edited paper, Sunday Punch (Dagupan City) for the Gerry Gil Foundation best editorial page and best in business and economic reporting, Bandillo ng Palawan (Puerto Princesa City) for best in environmental reporting, and Southern Leyte Times (Maasin City) for best in photojournalism.

CEBU Daily News publisher Eileen Mangubat (left) cradles the trophy for Best Edited Community Paper at the recent Annual Community Press Awards Night. With her are Amado P. Macasaet, PPI president, Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. and Werner vom Busch of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Ironically, tutors might not vote

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SOME 640,000 teachers assigned to poll duty on May 10 may not be able to vote, according to the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA).

A new rule handed down by the Commission on Elections states that teachers will no longer be allowed to cast their ballots in the voting precincts where they are to serve as election inspectors.

They can only do so if they are registered voters in that precinct's town or city, or, in the case of Metro Manila, in the legislative district.

MPSTA president Benjie Valbuena said he and the other teachers were surprised at the new rule, which he said was announced to them only last week during a Comelec briefing at a Quezon City public school.

"The teachers themselves will be disenfranchised," Valbuena told Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos in a forum at the Department of Education on Thursday.

But Abalos said the Comelec had allocated ballots only for the registered voters, and not for the three teachers who would serve in the Board of Election Inspectors in each precinct.

He said it was the district superintendents who would submit the names of such teachers to the Comelec for approval.

Tillers say Marcos loot funding GMA projects

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG has reportedly taken more than half a billion pesos from the recovered Marcos ill-gotten wealth to fund one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's pet projects.

"This is very immoral because they are touching the ill-gotten wealth," veteran peasant leader Jaime Tadeo told the INQUIRER on Friday.

The release of P544 million from the Agrarian Reform Fund was done through a resolution passed last week by a multi-agency body chaired by the President.

The money, according to Executive Committee Resolution No. 2004 of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council, would go to the "Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA)" rice program's hybrid rice production, which is not an agrarian reform project.

Any Marcos ill-gotten wealth like the roughly P30 billion ($684 million) recovered last year is supposed to go to the agrarian reform program of the government.

Earlier this week, a group of farmer-leaders aired their suspicion that part of the agrarian reform fund taken from the ill-gotten Marcos wealth was being used to finance the President's pet projects ahead of the elections.

These projects, which were not related to agrarian reform, were the Greater Medicare Access (GMA) sa Barangay medical insurance, the President Diosdado Macapagal Scholarship Program, potable water supply projects and day care centers.

Tadeo said the P544 million was released one week after acting Agrarian Reform Secretary Jose Mari Ponce, the PARC executive committee chair, issued the undated resolution.

The resolution reportedly was not discussed in an en banc meeting. Cabinet secretaries and landowner and farmer representatives were instead separately told to sign it.

At the time, Tadeo said, they were told the hybrid rice program's funding request was for P447 million, based on the Department of Agriculture's letter-request dated March 31.

But when the resolution was passed last week, the amount was P544 million.

"The small farmers' position on the use of the P30 billion Marcos ill-gotten wealth has been consistent—the ARF should be used solely to fund land distribution," Tadeo told the PARC in a position paper.

"I told them we could talk about this after the elections since there was no rush. But I was told Malacañang wanted this done quickly," Tadeo added.

In the March 31 letter to the President, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said the DA needed to take P447 million from the agrarian reform fund "not later than April 15" for the planting of hybrid rice on 400,000 hectares for the dry season.

But Tadeo said dry season planting did not start until November.

"Because of the timing and the manner of the fund release, I'm afraid the money will only be used for the elections," he said.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales said she would ask Congress to look into the fund misuse.

She said the President had assured her the ill-gotten Marcos funds would not be used for the elections.

HONORING SANDRA

President Macapagal conferred the Order of the Golden Heart with the Rank of Grand Officer on the late Time magazine bureau chief Sandra Burton who died in Bali, Indonesia on Feb. 27, 2004. Receiving the award is Robert Delfs, Burton's longtime companion. Others in photo are, from left, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Time correspondent Nelly Sindayen and Joan Orendain.

Good news for OFWs: No double taxation

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GOVERNMENT has no plans to require overseas Filipino workers to pay income taxes, Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert told reporters Friday.

Since OFWs are already taxed in their host countries, the government does not want to add to their burden, she said.

Albert made the clarification in response to reports the administration would be proposing legislation to re-impose income taxes for OFWs.

"There are no plans to re-impose income taxes on overseas Filipinos. There are no plans to amend the Tax Reform Act of 1997, or Republic Act 8424, which enshrines the decision to exempt overseas Filipinos from paying income taxes," she said.

The decision to exempt overseas Filipinos was based on the government's policy of not placing an added burden on OFWs through double taxation.

"We usually implement this policy through bilateral avoidance of taxation agreements, but we wanted to relieve our overseas Filipinos of this double burden across the board, without having to wait for a bilateral agreement with each host country," Albert said.

"The fact is that most overseas Filipinos are taxed in their host countries, and the double taxation that they suffered for many years before RA 8424 had cut deeply into their incomes. Our overseas Filipinos should be the ones to decide how to manage their own incomes," she said.

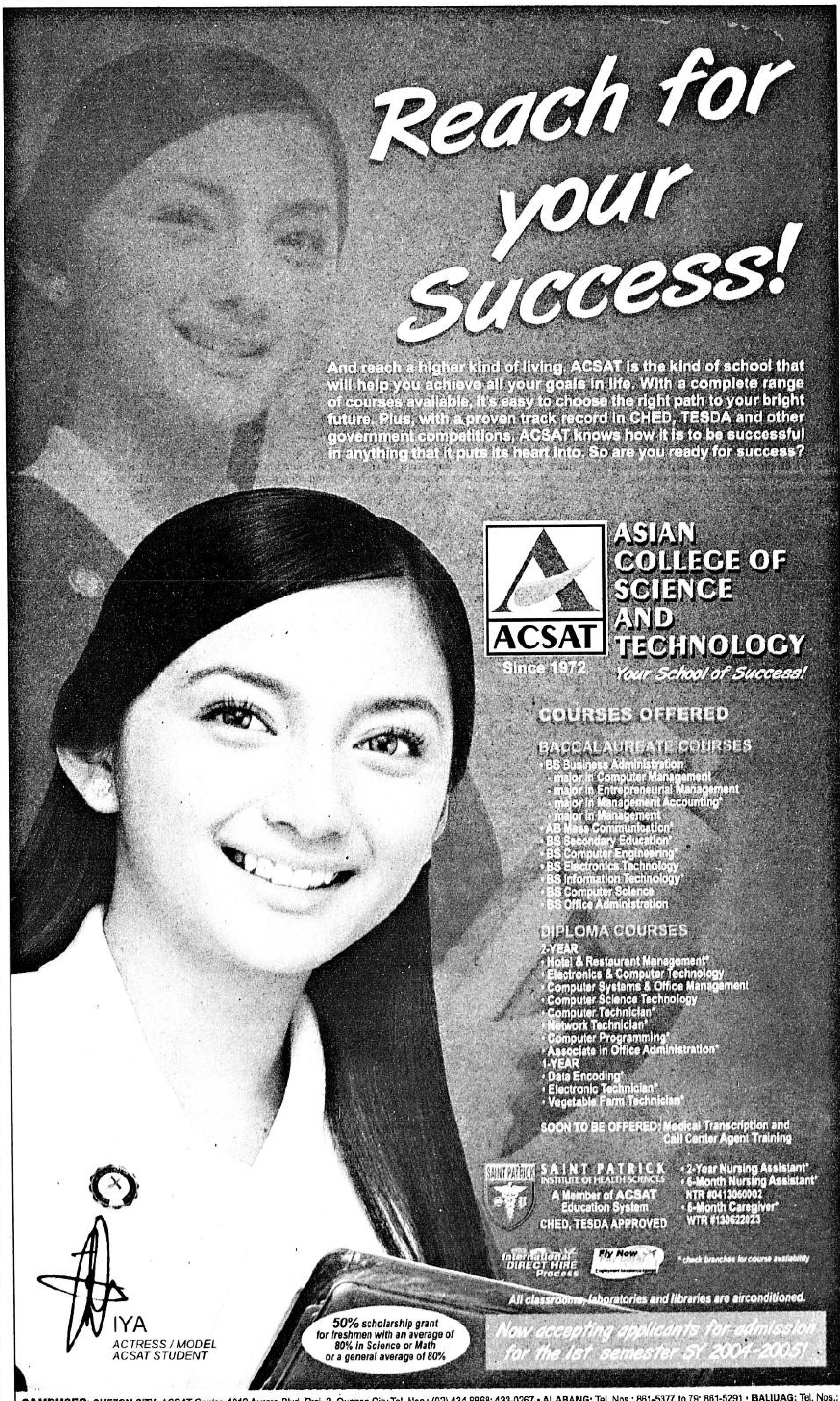
"Thankfully, and it is a credit to our overseas Filipinos' sense of civic and family duty as well as their love of country, many have decided to reinvest their income in the Philippines through regular remittances, which in turn have helped drive economic growth and increase household savings here," Albert added.

The government was exerting every effort to ease the monetary burden on OFWs. She noted the government's agreement with the US last year that reduced the cost of remittances to the Philippines.

"This agreement translates to a savings of at least $500 million to $1 billion a year for overseas Filipinos in the US," she said.

The government also obtained a five-year $3.75 million grant from the US Agency for International Development to encourage OFWs to use credit unions for their remittances.

"Because of the wider reach of credit unions in the Philippines, especially in places where banks are not present, remittances will also have a wider reach but at a lower cost," Albert said.



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Iglesia going for Gloria

From page A1

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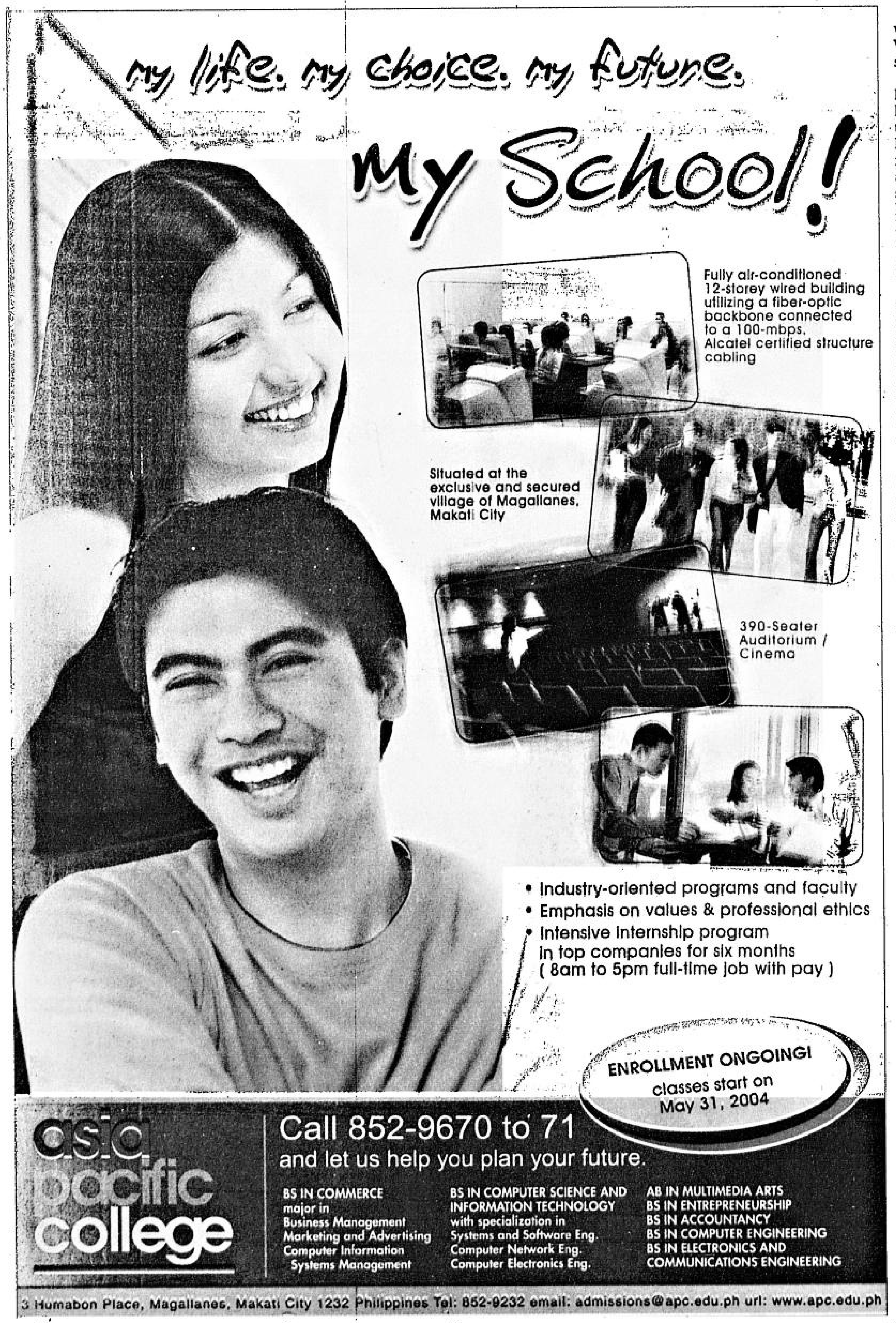
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Aggrieved pet owner mulls suit vs food firm

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A PET owner has threatened to file a class action lawsuit against the makers of a certain brand of dog food found to cause kidney illnesses in dogs.

Pedigree dry dog food products were voluntarily recalled from Asian stores in March, after the makers confirmed that products manufactured in its Thailand factory were contaminated with mold whose toxins led to kidney disease in dogs.

"I want to prove that it was eating Pedigree dry dog food that led to the illness of my dogs. I want to file a case," said Evalyn Ursua, who lost one of her dogs last December to renal failure.

Her two other dogs, who had also been fed on Pedigree for the past two years, also fell ill with azotemia, a kidney ailment.

Ursua said she was not satisfied with the product refund offered by Master Foods Phils. Inc., the local Pedigree dealer.

She and other pet owners are discussing the possibility of taking legal action.

"We're thinking of filing as a group," said Ursua, a lawyer.

A spokesperson for the mother company, Master Foods Inc., said they did not merely offer a product refund, but also to "fairly compensate" affected customers.

"We're committed to doing the right thing," Calvin Schmidt, general manager for Asia Pacific, said in a phone interview from Thailand.

Aside from the Pedigree dry dog food products, the company also recalled its Whiskas dry cat food products manufactured in the same Thai factory as a precaution.

In an interview, Ursua said she was more concerned about the "irreparable damage" to her two remaining dogs.

In her letter addressed to the manager of Master Foods Phils. Inc. on April 27, Ursua demanded to know the results of any tests done on the contaminated dog food and their link to kidney failure.

"They have to be honest about what exactly happened. The damage has been done. My dogs can get sick again any time because their kidneys are no longer functioning 100 percent. So it's not simply a matter of refunding the cost of the food. They can't replace my pet," she said.

It was Ursua's first pet and the mother of her two other dogs that died. All three dogs became ill in November and December last year. One was put to sleep on Dec. 5 last year due to renal failure, while the other two remained under treatment until February.

Albert: Travel alerts products of bureaucracy

By Philip C. Tubeza

BLAME it on the bureaucracies of the foreign countries involved.

This in essence was what Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert said as she downplayed the most recent spate of adverse travel advisories issued by some foreign governments against the Philippines.

"These travel advisories should be seen more as perfunctory and ministerial rather than as accurate or precise," Albert told reporters on Friday.

"These are churned out largely by bureaucratic inertia. The recent statements made by foreign ambassadors in Manila—that the Philippines is a good place to visit and to do business—are much more relevant and reflect the true situation in our country," she said.

Albert said that from her meetings overseas with foreign leaders, it was clear that their confidence in the Philippines was high.

"In my face-to-face meetings with foreign ministers and other high officials, I was given very positive statements and indications of confidence in our country, in our people and our leadership," the secretary said.

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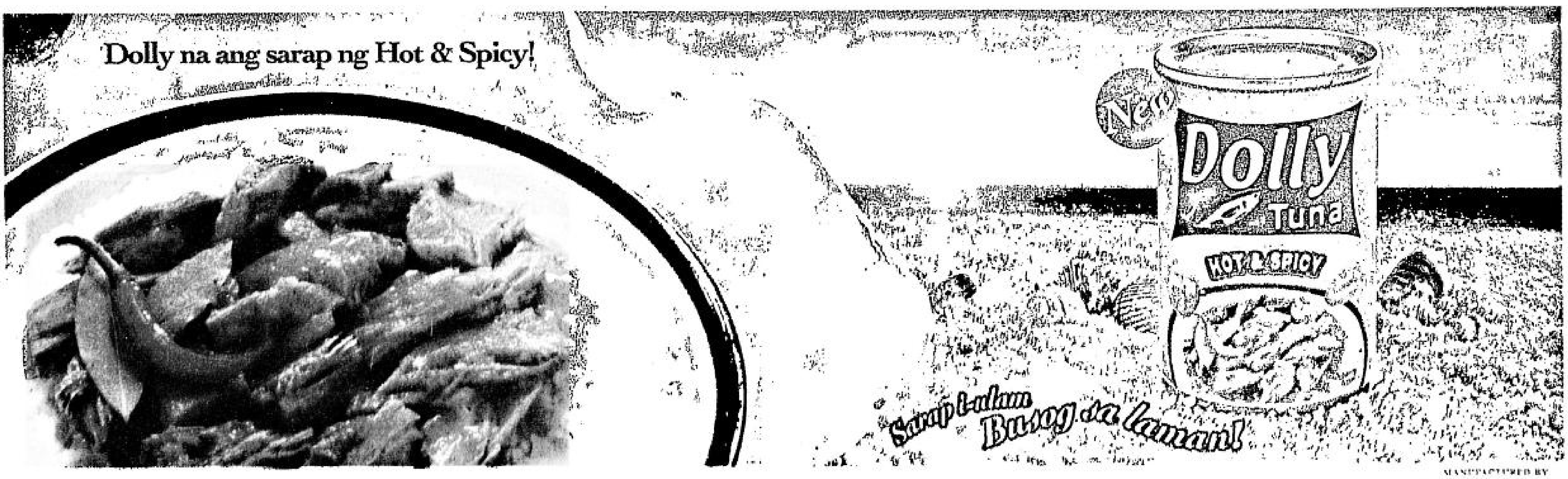

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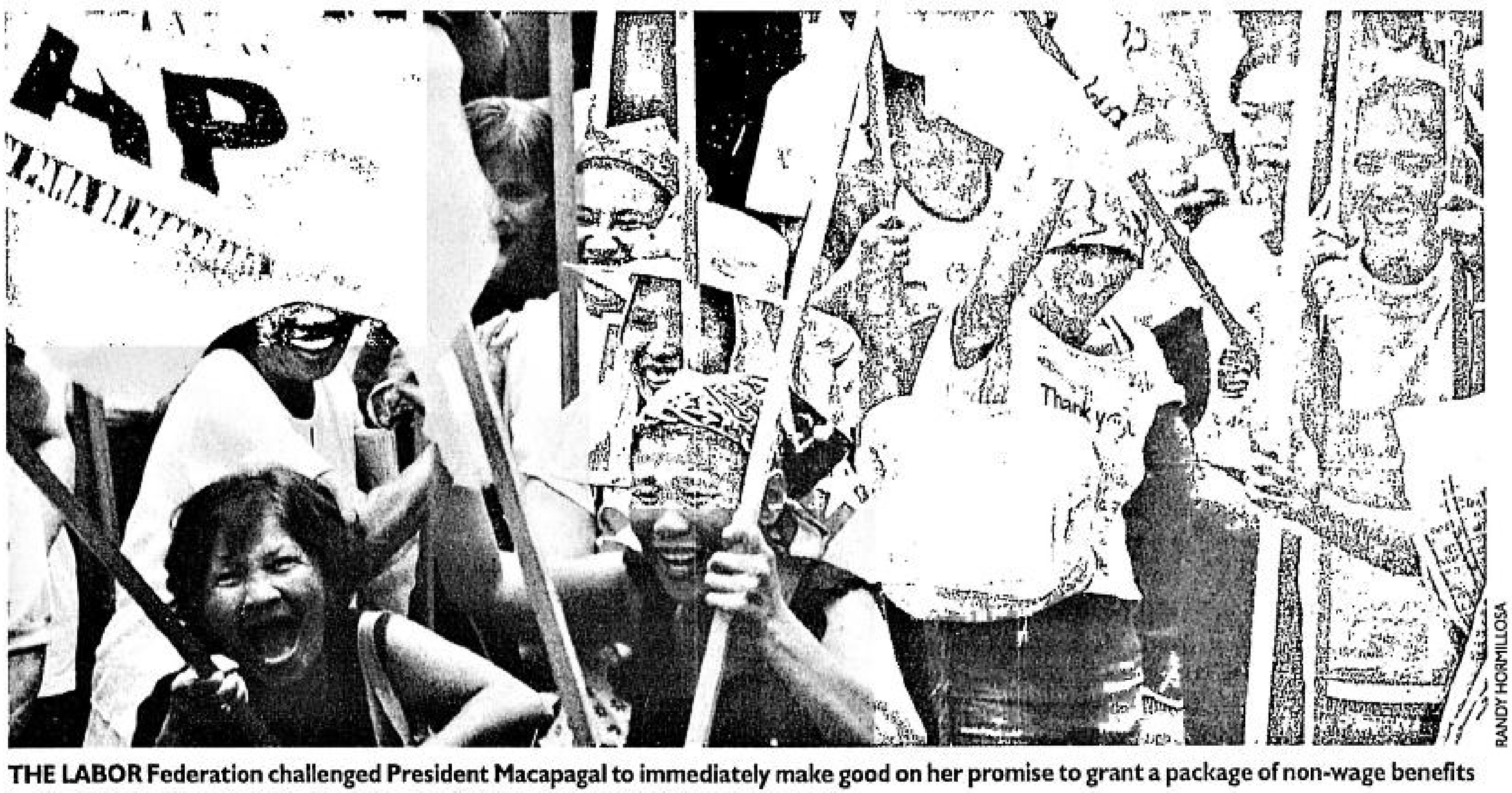

RANDY HORMILLOSA

THE LABOR Federation challenged President Macapagal to immediately make good on her promise to grant a package of non-wage benefits to the lowly paid workers in the wake of calls for a new round of wage increases.

Labor says GMA's 'freebies' an insult

From page A1

time wages were raised. But she also stressed this was for regional wage boards to decide.

Industry wage boards

In the same breath, the President said she would seek the abolition of the regional wage boards and replace them with industry wage boards.

Minimum wages should be determined by industry because industries in the same region do not necessarily give the same wage, she said.

"In one region, there are industries which can afford to give higher wages, like call centers. And in the same region there are struggling industries, like garments," the President said.

She said she would ask the next Congress to amend the regional wage boards law.

Roco's covenant

Alyansa ng Pag-asa standard-bearer Raul Roco, recently treated in the United States for a recurrence of his prostate cancer, joined the Labor Day rally in Manila of the 80,000-strong Federation of Free Workers to sign a covenant with FFW national president Ramon J. Jabar.

The covenant called for an end to the contractualization of labor in the private sector, among other demands.

Roco told FFW members that should he become president, "we will outlaw the oppressive policy of contractualization, and we will protect the security of tenure of employees."

Rallies elsewhere took on a sharper political flavor as other labor groups pledged not to vote for Ms Macapagal in the May 10 elections.

Ms Macapagal's offer of free train rides, discounts in selected department stores, free concerts and free entry to the Araneta Coliseum for basketball games also deeply rankled.

"An insulting *consuelo de bobo*" and an "outright attempt to divide workers' unity as it will be implemented in Metro Manila only," said Luz Baculo, secretary general of the Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan (Pamantik).

"The Arroyo government once again failed the working class," said Daniel Edralin, chair of Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL).

Comedy

"We find PGMA's Labor Day package insulting ... It (also) reveals her administration's shallow understanding of the problems confronted by the working people," Edralin said.

"*Panandaliang aliw* (A temporary pleasure)," was how Kilusang Mayo Uno chair Elmer Labor called Malacañang's package.

"Our serious demands are being met with comedy," Labog added.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales said it was "insulting" how the government ignored the workers' plight by giving them a free concert instead.

Electoral pitch

Labor Day rallies by the Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan (Makabayan) in Central Luzon also took on an electoral pitch.

"Since President Macapagal-Arroyo cannot deliver a wage hike for fear of being charged with electioneering, no worker will cast his or her vote to deliver (the President) into another year of power," Makabayan regional spokesperson Emily Fajardo said at a rally by about 300 workers.

Fajardo said Ms Macapagal did not deserve another term because of "her track record of failure to arrest rising prices of fuel, goods and services, and her bias towards foreign capitalists over the welfare of Filipino workers."

The protesters came from the Bataan Export Zone in Bataan, Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales and Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

More attacks

In Baguio City, the rallies were also dominated by attacks on Ms Macapagal.

Roger Soluta, a member of Kilusang Mayo Uno's national council, urged voters not to cast their support for any presidential candidate, saying even the opposition members were "wolves garbed in sheep's clothing."

"(The opposition candidates) are not fighting for you, but for who will emerge as the new power who will raid the public treasury," he said.

Protests in the Visayas were participated in by about 12,000 workers in Bacolod, 10,000 in Cebu, 2,000 in Lapulapu, 10,000 in Tacloban and 4,500 in Iloilo.

In Tacloban, about 7,000 workers joined the rally at the Remedios Trinidad Romualdez Plaza to demand a P125 across-the-board wage increase.

'Not acceptable'

Ruben Manatad, Courage executive committee member, said the 10 percent increase in salary being offered by the government was "not acceptable" because it would not be enough to provide government workers decent living conditions.

About 12,000 workers joined rallies in Bacolod, Negros Occidental.

The KMU led about 7,000 demonstrators at the Bacolod public plaza, while 4,000 workers belonging to Sanlakas and the Partido ng Manggagawa gathered at the Fountain of Justice.

Historic Colon Street in downtown Cebu City was closed to traffic after some 5,000 workers affiliated with KMU and Anakpawis held a rally there.

More than 5,000 workers affiliated with the Associated Labor Union-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines gathered at the Cebu Coliseum for a convention.

Democrito Mendoza, ALU-TUCP president, called for workers' solidarity in the lobby for a wage increase, socialized housing and a non-economic package for workers and other issues that affect them.

In Iloilo, the KMU and the party-list groups Anakpawis and Bayan Muna led around 3,000 protesters who marched from two assembly points before holding a rally along Iznart Street.

Voice of the poor

In Manila, Ronald Lumbao of the People's Movement Against Poverty returned to the Chino Roces Bridge to lambast the Macapagal government.

"On May 10, the poor will make their voices heard through their votes," he said in an interview.

The bridge was the site of the violent Edsa 3 rally on May 1, 2001, when thousands of supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada tried to take over Malacañang. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Luige del Puerto; Joey A. Gabieta, Carla P. Gomez, Jolene R. Bulambot, Jhunnex Napallacan and Nestor P. Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Vincent Cabreza and Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Romulo O. Ponte, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Marlon Ramos, Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Niel Lim and Kate Pedroso, trainees*

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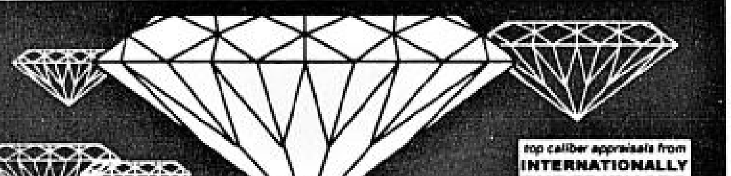

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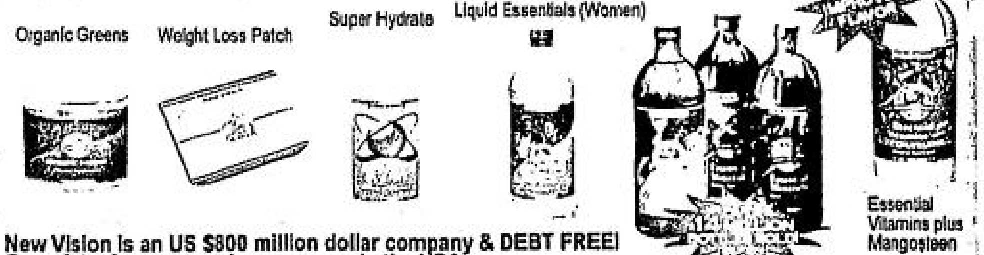
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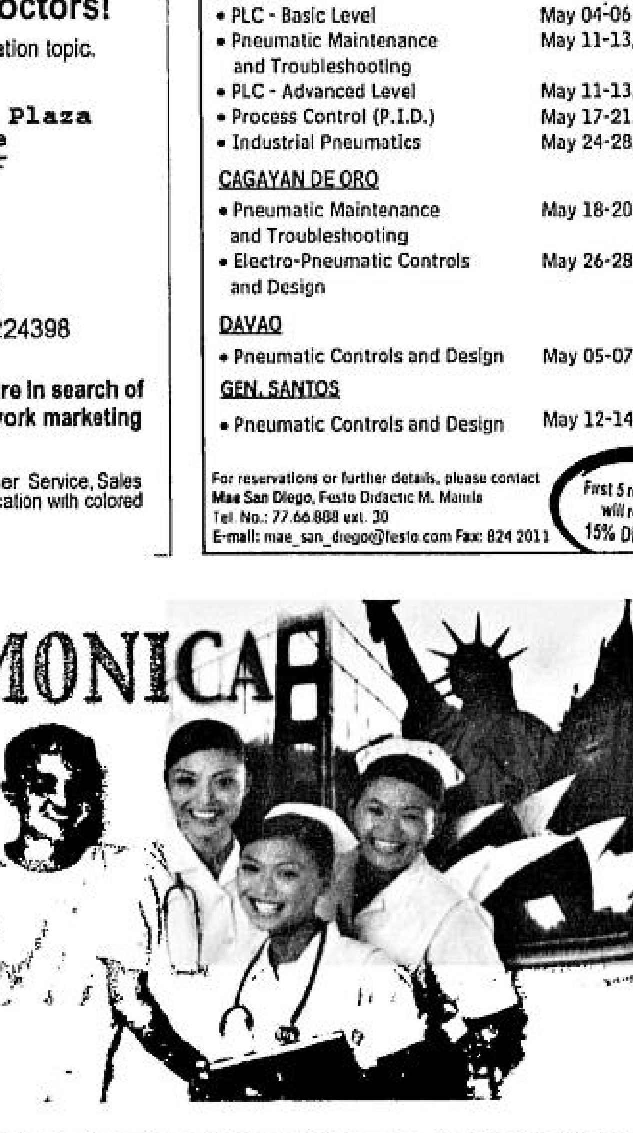

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Noli reminded of vow to probe unsolved Mindoro killings

By Volt Contreras

A PARTY-LIST group yesterday asked administration vice presidential candidate Sen. Noli "Kabayan" de Castro to fulfill an earlier pledge to investigate the series of unsolved killings, particularly of left-leaning political organizers, in Mindoro.

Anakpawis issued the challenge to De Castro, a native of Mindoro, after one of their local officers was reportedly gunned down by a still unidentified assailant Wednesday night in Mindoro Oriental.

Anakpawis said 23-year-old Isaias Maano, its secretary general for the province, was shot dead on his way to the party's headquarters in Calapan City after attending a meeting at the house of mayoral candidate Bodjie Ignacio at around 9 p.m.

Police said the unidentified assailant who had been tailing Maano fired at the victim, who was accompanied by another Anakpawis leader Guillermo Coz. Maano was fatally hit in the head and abdomen.

Anakpawis and its allied organizations led by Bayan Muna had accused the military and police of staging the series of killings and abductions of their leaders and supporters in the provinces.

Anakpawis national president Rafael Mariano recalled that following the twin murders of Mindoro-based human rights lawyer Juvy Magsino and activist Leima Fortu last Feb. 13, De Castro had vowed to seek the pullout of government troops from the province if another local activist was slain.

"But until now, no single word has come out of his mouth" regarding his earlier pronouncement, he said.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

A year on, Bush admits 'tough times' in Iraq

By Steve Holland

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush said on Friday, a year after his triumphant "mission accomplished" speech on the Iraq war, that there had been "tough times" but progress was being made.

At the end of the bloodiest month of fighting since the war began, with 134 Americans dead, Bush made no apologies for declaring "major combat operations" over on May 1, 2003, when he donned a flight suit and landed aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier.

Bush's visit to the Lincoln was a flag-waving spectacle that was supposed to celebrate the end of major fighting in Iraq and signal a turn in US policy toward forming a democratic government for grateful Iraqis.

Instead, a guerrilla insurgency has grown in intensity.

US forces are being shot at both by Saddam Hussein's Sunni Muslims and some in the Shiite majority who were happy to see Saddam gone. About 730 US troops have now died in Iraq since the war began.

US policymakers who felt American forces would be treated as liberators are now chagrined to see Iraqis regard them as occupiers and to witness sliding support for the war at home.

Bush spent Friday evening having dinner at the home of a main architect of the Iraq war, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"A year ago, I did give the speech from the carrier saying that we had achieved an important objective, that we had accomplished a mission, which was the removal of Saddam Hussein," Bush told a Rose Garden news conference with visiting Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin.

BUSH onboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln May 1, 2003, where he made his triumphant "mission accomplished" speech. AFP

He said "there are no longer torture chambers or rape rooms or mass graves in Iraq" and that "a friend of terror has been removed and now sits in a jail."

However, no weapons of mass destruction, the main reason Bush cited for the war, have been found.

"We've had some tough times," Bush said. "And we've had some tough fighting because there are people who hate the idea of a free Iraq. They're trying to stop progress, because they understand what freedom means to their terrorist ambitions."

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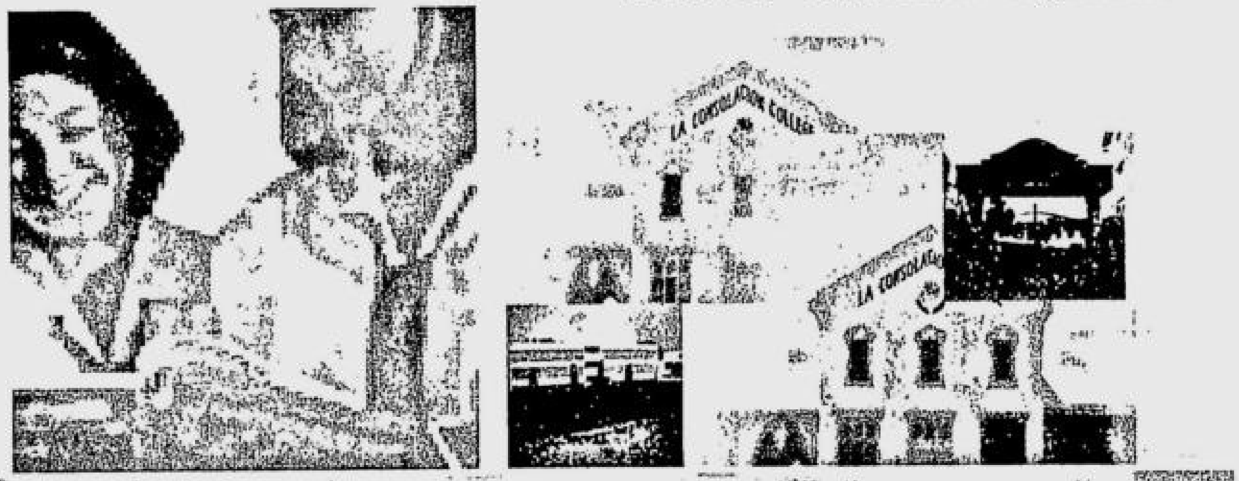

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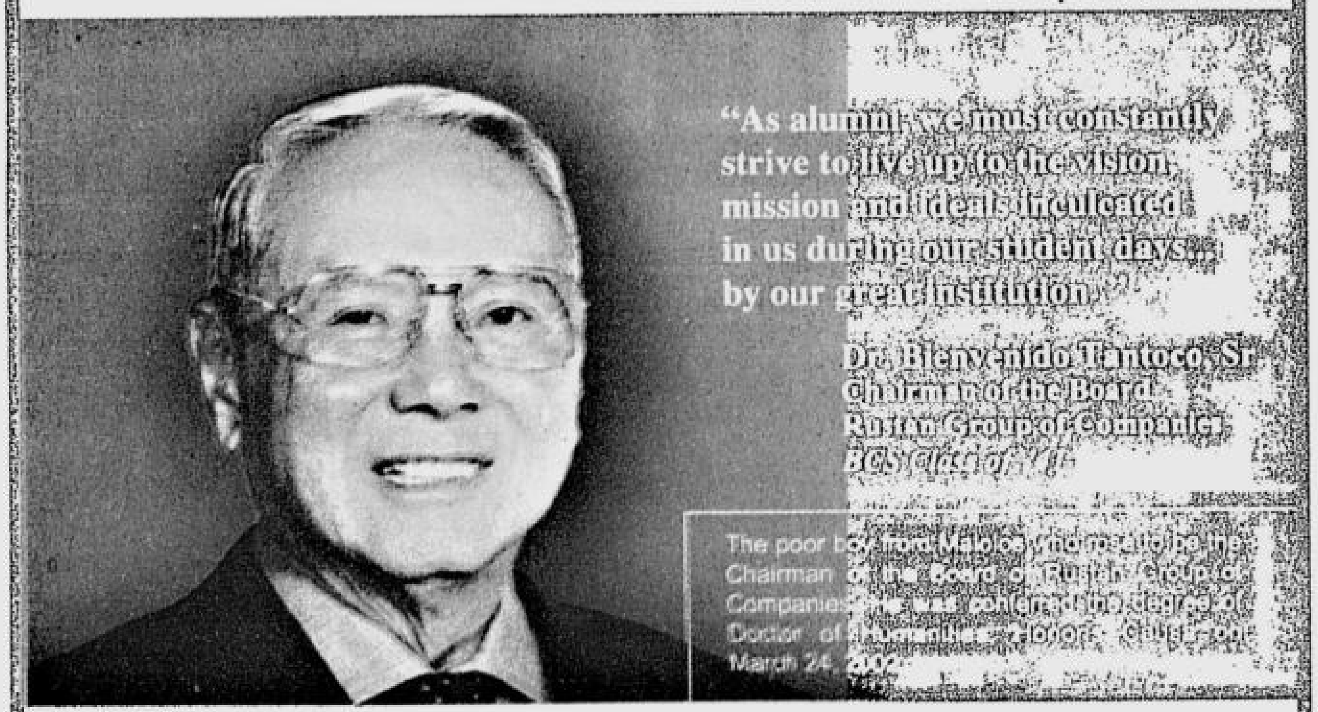

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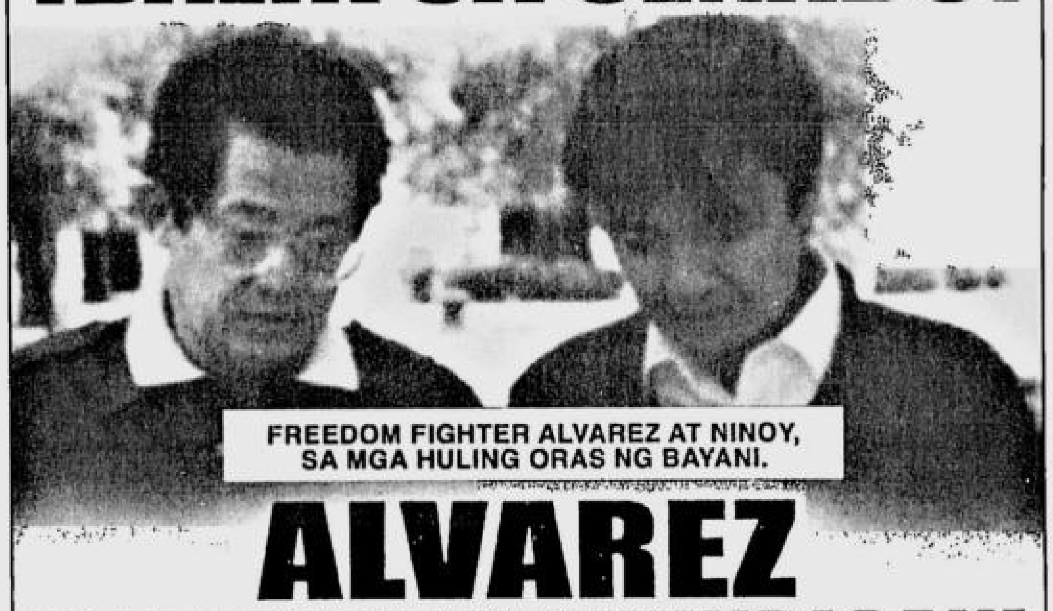

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US: Al-Zawahiri, not Bin Laden, al-Qaida's real leader

WASHINGTON—A former Egyptian doctor-turned-practitioner of Islamic holy war has emerged as the hands-on operational leader of the al-Qaida network, reducing Osama bin Laden to a figurehead role, a top US counter-terrorism official said late Friday.

Cofer Black, a former chief al-Qaida hunter at the Central Intelligence Agency who now coordinates counter-terrorism activities at the State Department, warned that Ayman al-Zawahiri, a man associated with radical Islamic causes since the 1960s, "tends to be more operational than Osama bin Laden."

"I think Zawahiri represents more of a threat comparatively between the two men," Black told CNN television. "Zawahiri is certainly in the field and operating, has lines of communication to his subordinates and is planning attacks as we speak."

He described bin Laden, the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, as a "figurehead" leader who was increasingly out of touch with his followers.

"He's very defensive. He knows we're after him. And he spends most of his time hiding from us," Black said of bin Laden.

The official went on to compare the al-Qaida founder to ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein who had been hiding in an underground hole, completely cut off from the outside world, before US soldiers captured him last December.

Black did not say whether he believed al-Zawahiri and bin Laden were on the run separately or together.

As many as 70 percent of al-Qaida's leadership have been captured or killed as a result of the US-led war on terror launched in the aftermath of Sept. 11 in Afghanistan and other parts of the world, according to US intelligence officials.

More than 3,400 of the group's lower-ranking operatives and supporters have also been detained or otherwise neutralized, these officials insist.

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Europe reunited as EU opens gate to 10 nations

DUBLIN—Europe stood proudly reunited Saturday almost six decades after it was split in two by the Cold War, as 10 nations in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean took their places in the European Union.

The once-communist states of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia officially joined the EU family at the stroke of midnight Central European summer time (2200 GMT Friday).

Mediterranean islands Cyprus and Malta joined them as well, rounding out what is indisputable the world's biggest single trading entity, with a total population of 455 million.

The European Union thus enters into a new and uncharted era, five decades after it rose out of the trauma of World War II as a force for peaceful partnership between France, Germany Italy and the Benelux nations.

"Welcome to the new Europe," trumpeted European Commission president Romano Prodi.

Spectacular firework displays lit up the night sky across the new Europe as Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," the triumphant EU anthem, rang out at the start of a weekend of celebrations in eastern capitals.

The 25 national flags of the expanded EU were to be unfurled on Saturday in Dublin at a ceremonial welcome given by the EU's Irish presidency for assembled heads of state and government.

"Five decades after our great project of European integration began, the divisions of the Cold War are gone once and for all and we live in a united Europe," Prodi said in a statement.

The new members had already begun to party hours before the midnight "big bang"—although the enlargement was clouded by the failure of Cyprus to join as a unified island.

Poland, by far the biggest of the 10 newcomers, hoisted the starred blue EU flag at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Warsaw.

"Welcome to a united Europe," President Aleksander Kwasniewski said. "Dreams are becoming a reality."

In Prague, on a stage bedecked with EU flags, Czech Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla called EU accession "the end of a long and difficult journey" that began with the Prague Spring rebellion against Soviet domination in 1968.

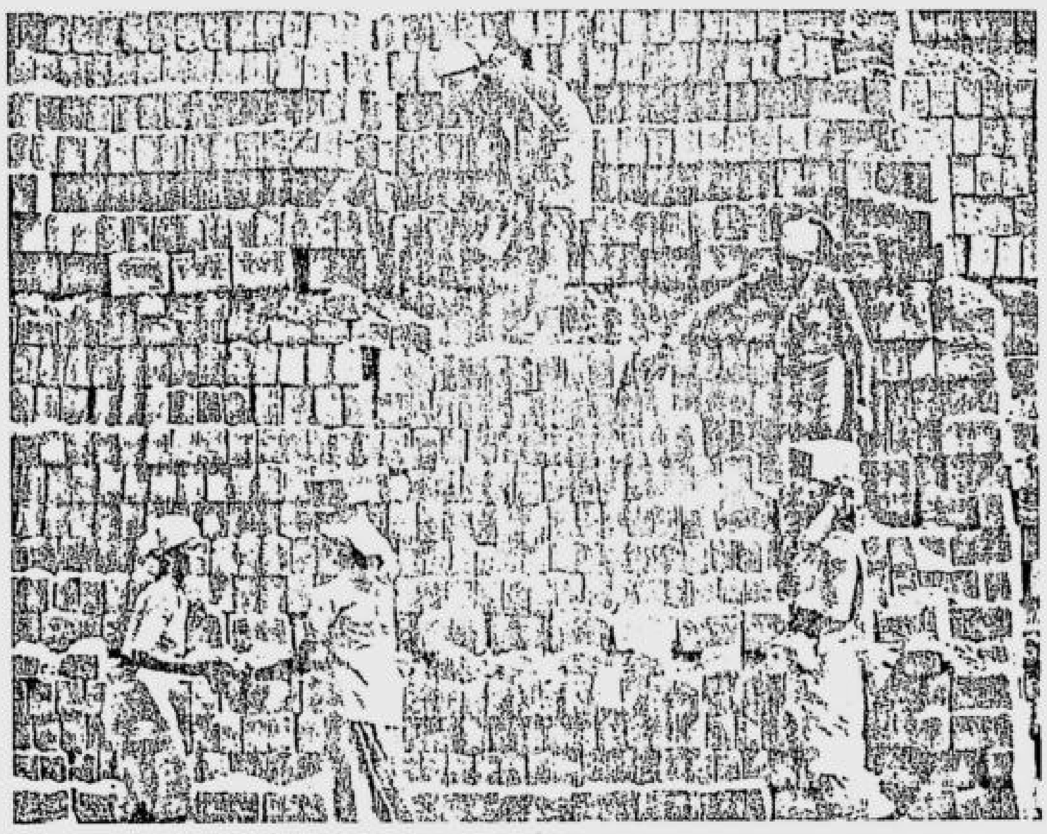
People in the three Baltic states burst into song to celebrate joining the EU, 14 years after their so-called Singing Revolution of passive resistance against Soviet subjugation.

"Latvia has prepared for the EU, Latvia has strived and argued and achieved a result. Now it is time to celebrate," President Vaira-Vike Freiberga told a crowd of 30,000 new Europeans gathered on the banks of Riga's Daugava river.

Few sites were more emblematic of Europe's far-reaching changes than the shared border between Austria, Italy and Slovenia, where officials of the three countries gathered Friday for a mountain-top celebration.

In contrast, festivities in western Europe were more measured, although Germany feted the enlargement by turning Berlin's Brandenburg Gate—scene of jubilant scenes in 1989 when the Wall came down—into one large beer garden.

The map of the new Europe now extends to the borders of Russia and Ukraine, as well as Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey—the latter all official candidates to join the bloc. *AFP*



JUST ANOTHER DAY FOR WORKERS
Tribal women work at a brick kiln near Manor village, 106 km north of Bombay in this picture taken April 30, 2004. Although the Indian economy is estimated to have grown more than eight per cent in the fiscal year that ended in March, most of the country's daily wage laborers earn less than a dollar a day.
REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

China confirms world's first SARS death of the year

BEIJING—Millions of Chinese hitting the road for the weeklong May Day holiday were screened for SARS symptoms on Saturday, a day after China confirmed a 53-year-old woman who died last week was the world's first SARS death this year. So far, the nation's new outbreak of the highly contagious ailment has been contained to a handful of cases, and the government is eager to keep it that way. The dead woman was the mother of a Beijing laboratory employee who contracted the virus at work. Severe acute respiratory syndrome had been the suspected cause of death, and test results were confirmed posthumously, the Ministry of Health said Friday. The announcement raised China's number of confirmed cases in this latest outbreak to five. Another four patients who are suspected cases are also hospitalized. *AP*

US: Possible Syria sanctions 'very soon'

WASHINGTON—The United States may slap sanctions on Syria "very soon" under a law meant to punish Damascus for allegedly supporting terrorism and seeking unconventional weapons, the White House warned Friday. "What our goal is, is to make sure that we take steps that will lead to Syria changing its behavior, and that's why we're moving forward on implementing the Syria Accountability Act," said spokesperson Scott McClellan. A senior administration official, who requested anonymity, said a decision could be announced "in a couple of weeks." McClellan said Damascus had not soothed concerns about its "harboring and supporting of terrorism"; about foreign fighters crossing the Syrian border to take on US-led troops in Iraq; about the Syrian military presence in Lebanon; and about Syria's quest for weapons of mass destruction. *AFP*

Most Japanese favor revision of pacifist statute, says poll

TOKYO—A majority of Japanese people favor revising the constitution, with close to a third wanting to rewrite a pacifist clause and a tenth agreeing to the use of military force abroad, a poll showed Saturday. Some 53 percent of 1,945 people polled by the Asahi Shimbun on April 11 and 12 said there was a need to revise the statutes, up from 47 percent in a poll taken in April 2001, the paper said. The first majority support for constitutional revision since the paper began polling in 1955 stemmed from rising security concerns, the paper said. *AFP*

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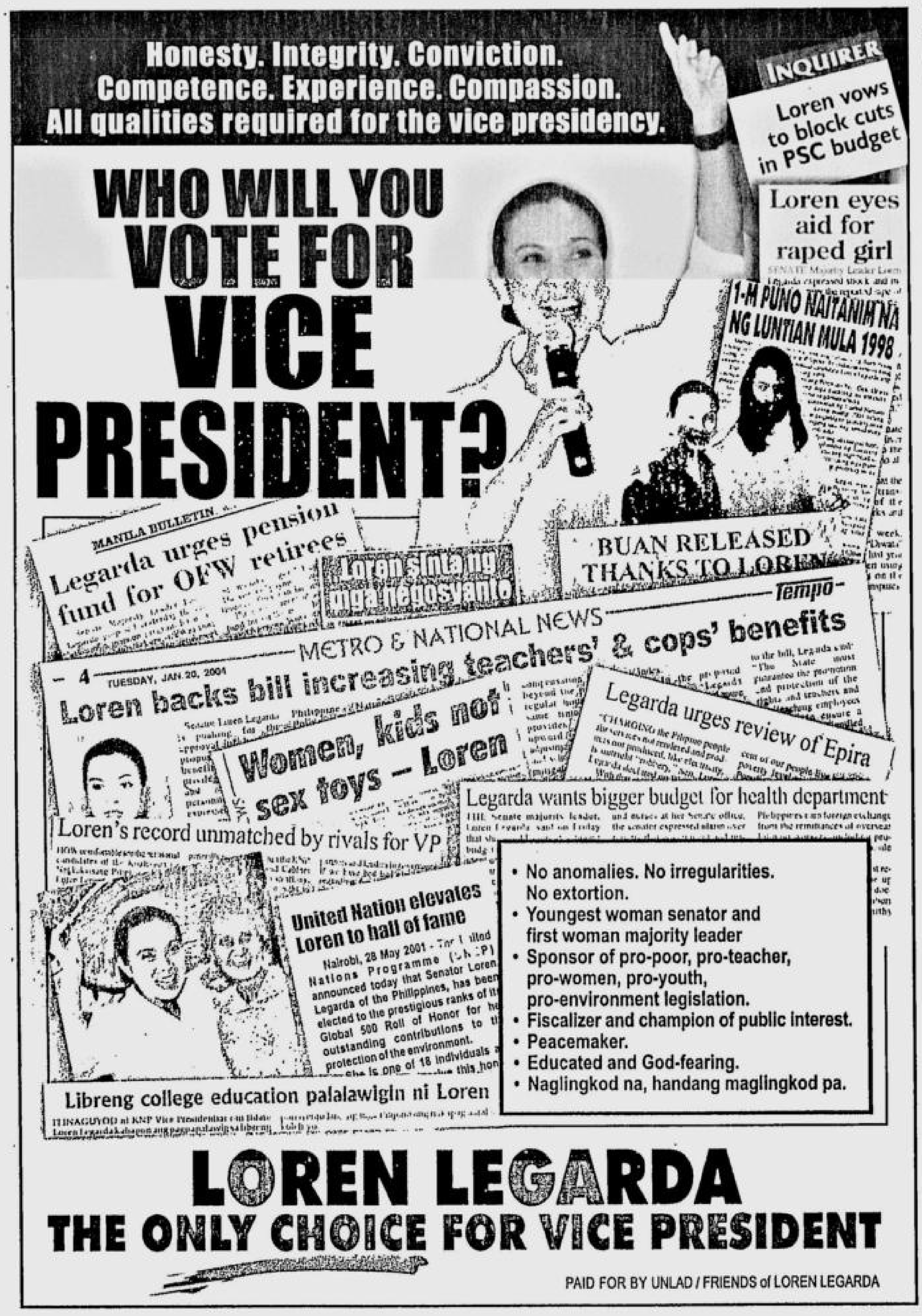
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Photos depict abuse of Iraqi prisoners

BAGHDAD—Pictures of US and British soldiers apparently abusing Iraqi prisoners drew international condemnation Friday and overshadowed a US pullout from the troubled Iraqi city of Fallujah.

US marines left the besieged Sunni Muslim city in the hands of a general from toppled leader Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard, Jassem Mohammed Saleh, although senior Pentagon officials in Washington acknowledged they were not sure Saleh could be trusted.

A three-week US siege of Fallujah left hundreds of Iraqis and scores of US troops dead.

The unrest, sparked by the brutal killing of four civilian US contractors a month ago, has accounted for much of the worst monthly US death toll in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

The images of US soldiers mistreating and humiliating Iraqi detainees at Abu Gharib prison near Baghdad were shown around the world.

"I share a deep disgust that those prisoners were treated the way they were treated," President George W. Bush told reporters at the White House.

The pictures, broadcast by US network CBS, showed US troops alongside naked Iraqi prisoners.

One photograph showed a hooded prisoner with wires attached to his hands, standing on a box. CBS said he had been told that if he fell off, he would be electrocuted.

US troops were shown laughing and gesturing at the naked detainees. One image showed the prisoners stacked one atop another in a pyramid, some positioned to simulate sex acts.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, in charge of US-run prisons in Iraq, was suspended and is under investigation, the US military said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which monitors compliance with the Geneva Convention on treatment of prisoners of war, said the images were "troubling and disturbing." Outrage was widespread in the Arab world.

The Arab League denounced the mistreatment and called on the US-led coalition to punish those responsible for the "savage acts."

Al-Arabiya, one of the Arabic television channels to broadcast the pictures, said the "humiliating" images showed the "savagery" of the US troops involved.

A presenter for Qatar-based al-Jazeera said the images showed the US soldiers' "unethical and inhuman" conduct.

Photographs also surfaced of British troops apparently beating a suspected thief with rifle butts and urinating on him, said the Daily Mirror, Britain's staunchest anti-war daily.

Soldiers from the Queen's Lancashire Regiment told the tabloid that fellow soldiers threatened an unnamed and uncharged captive with execution during an eight-hour beating that left him with a broken jaw and smashed teeth. *AFP*

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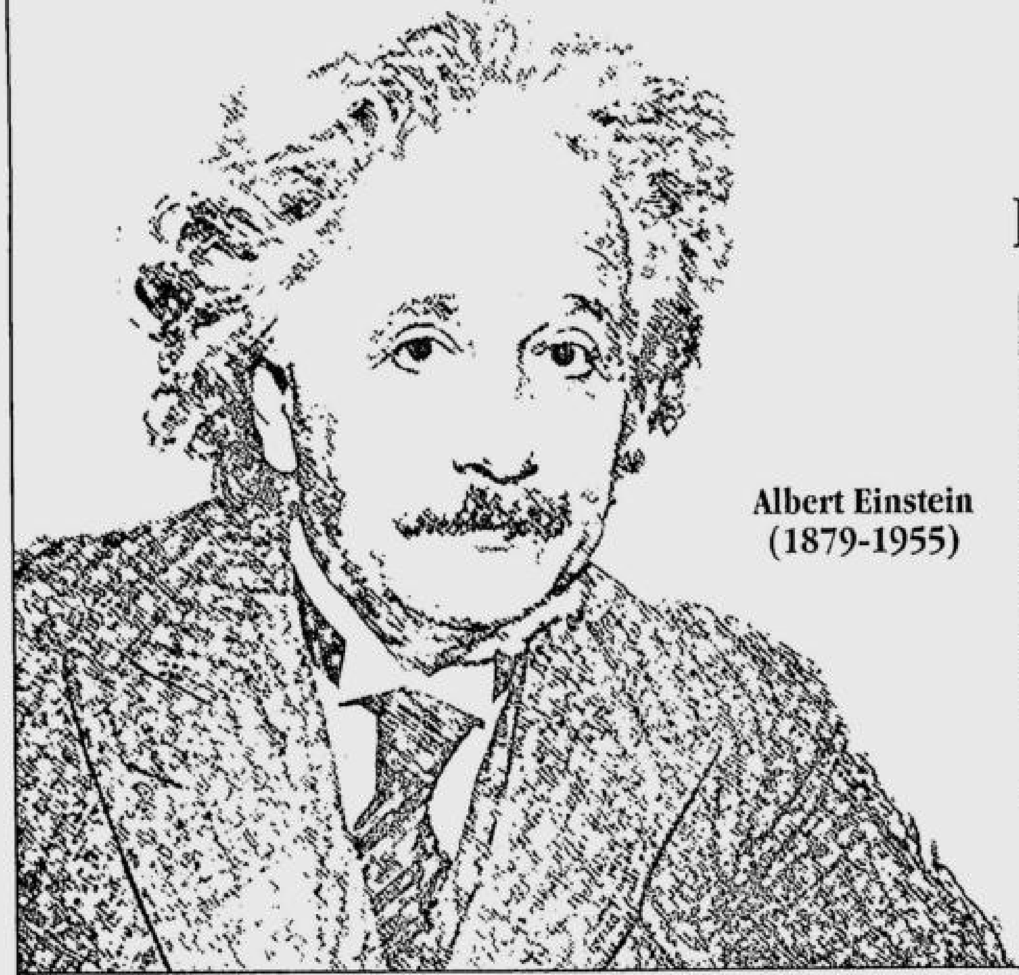

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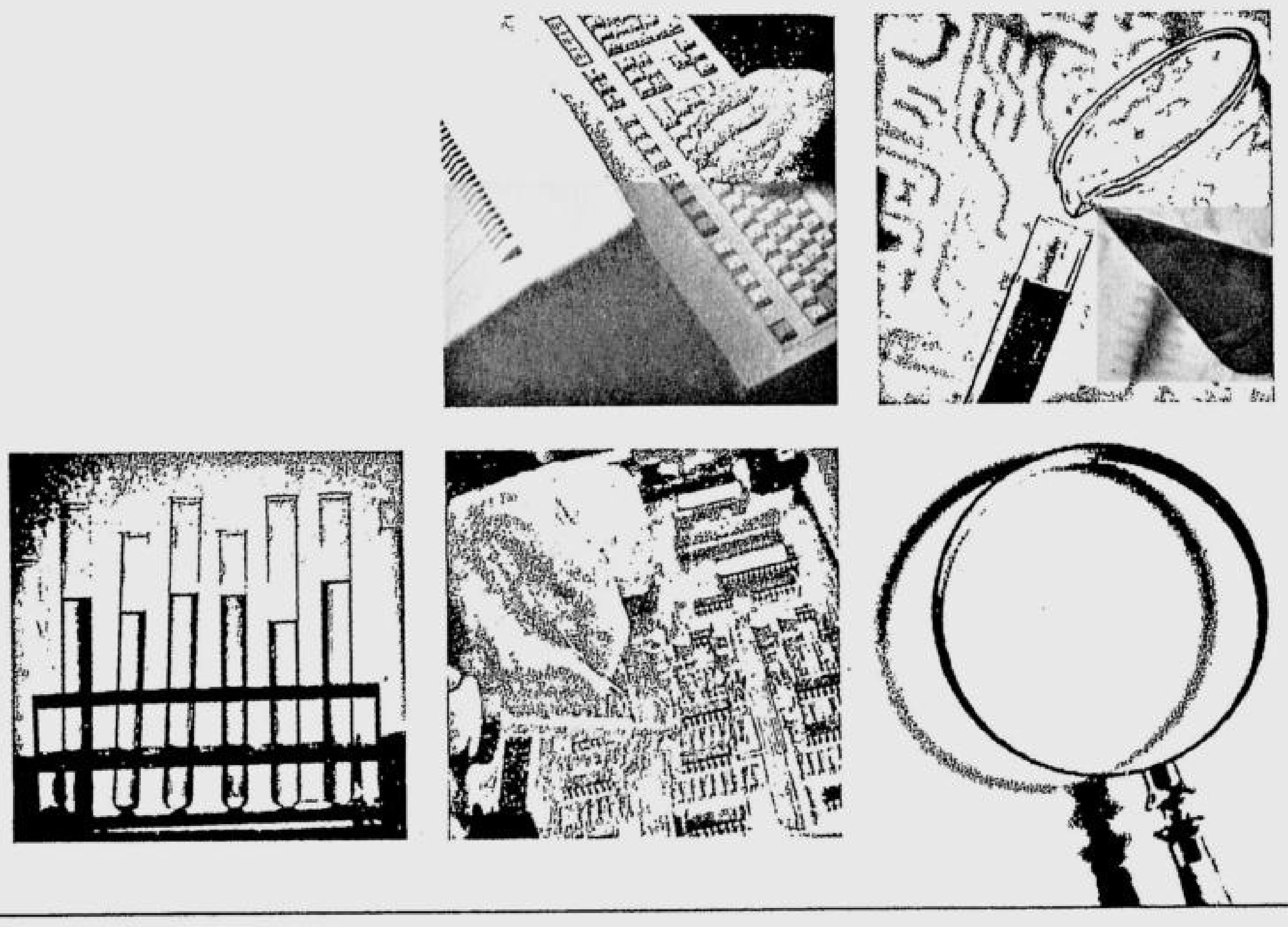

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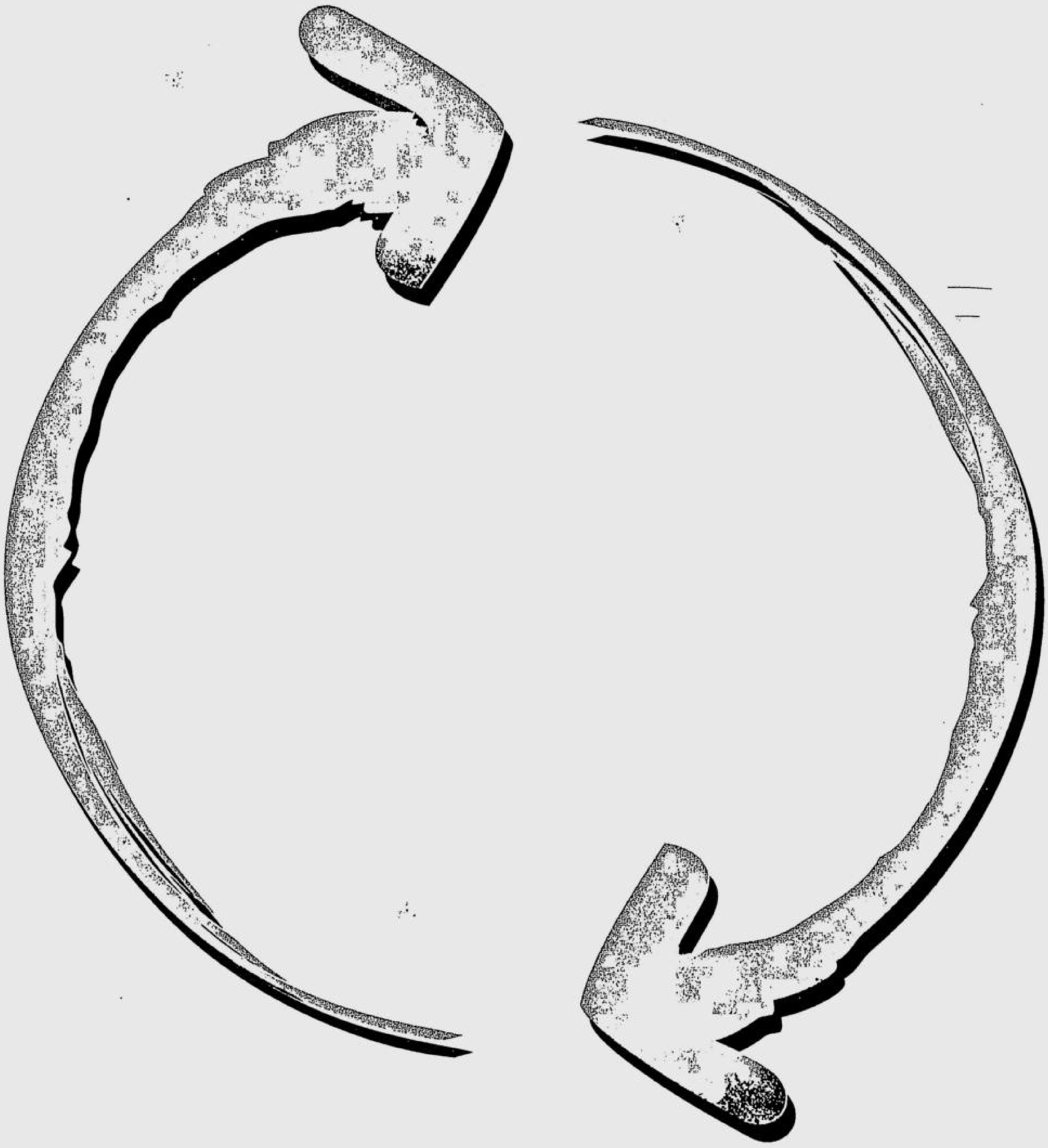

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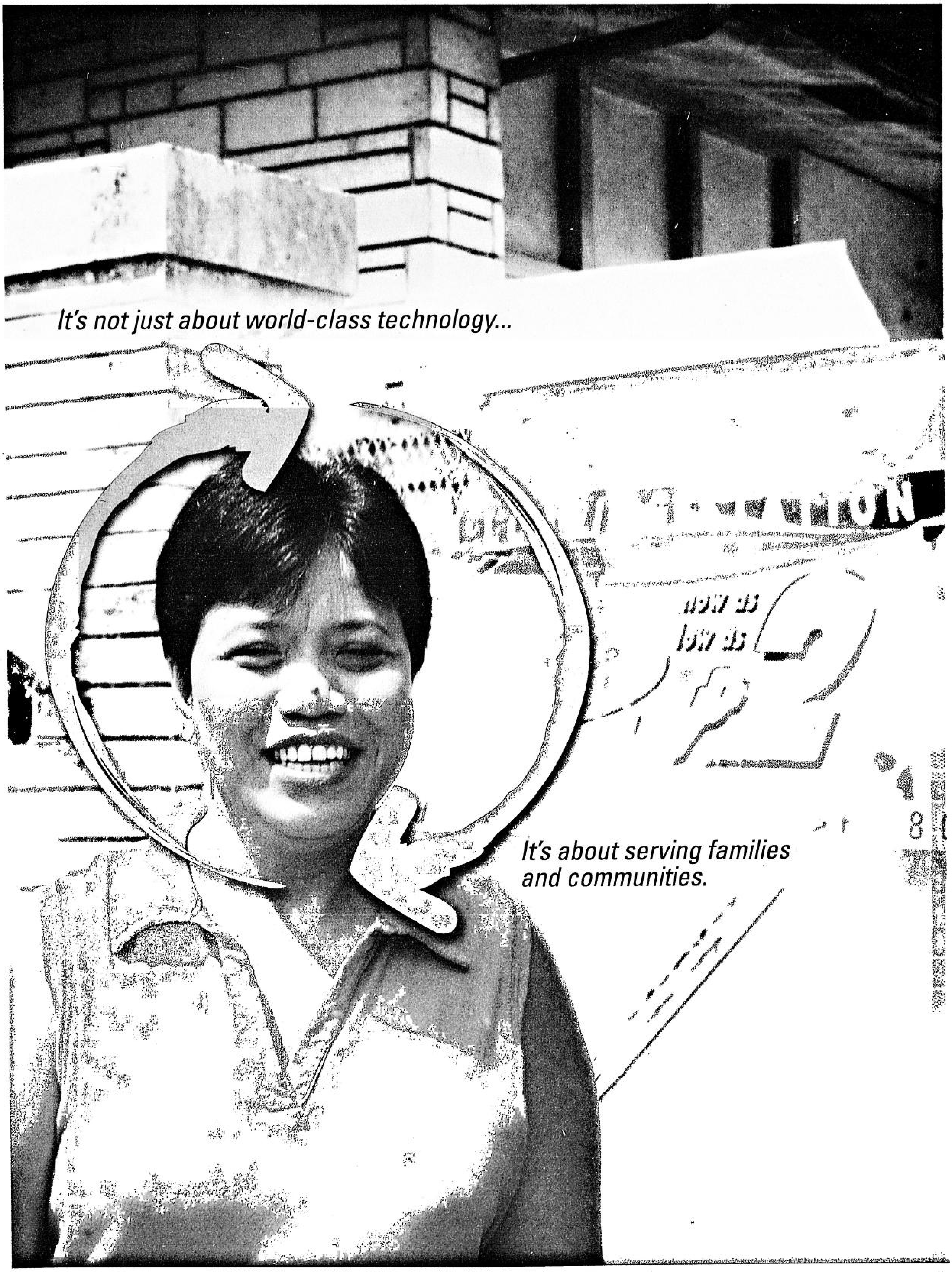
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Conqueror

EDITORIAL

WITH FLAGS at half-mast, orchestras playing, and the political, intellectual and social leadership in attendance, a nation buries Nick Joaquin today with all the pomp that can be mustered by the state. Among the artistic community, there is near universal mourning. Among the rest of his countrymen, who may only have heard his name from time to time, there is the widespread perception that a great one has left us. In our impoverished nation, it is reassuring to know that a man of letters remains among the notables.

Joaquin was born in an era of great change, when the generation of the Revolution was giving way to a nation resuming the propaganda movement after the crushing defeat of the First Republic. He reached adulthood immersed in the idiom of Cervantes. Heir to a heritage of devotion to culture as an integral part of what is necessary to build a country. His soul was steeped in the language of Cervantes but he found his full flowering expressing himself in the language of Shakespeare. His life was a portrait of the artist as master of alien tongues, but always and forever more Filipino.

Cosmopolite and autodidact, essayist, novelist, sometime poet and playwright, Joaquin was, first and foremost, a translator. He took ideas, and through his own words, made these ideas vivid. The ideas ranged from the appreciation of the complicated heritage of his people, to the mores of a proud and ancient city; from the clash of attitudes and principles of freedom lovers who took from Spain what was necessary to forge a nation, to the modern idioms of a society eager to escape the monastic broodings of our Spanish past in order to embrace the more modern percussions of our new American masters. He molded from this clash of civilizations—the Hispanic and American, distilled through the eyes of a Filipino—a massive opus, a series of sonatas and symphonies in words, to entertain, educate and challenge a people.

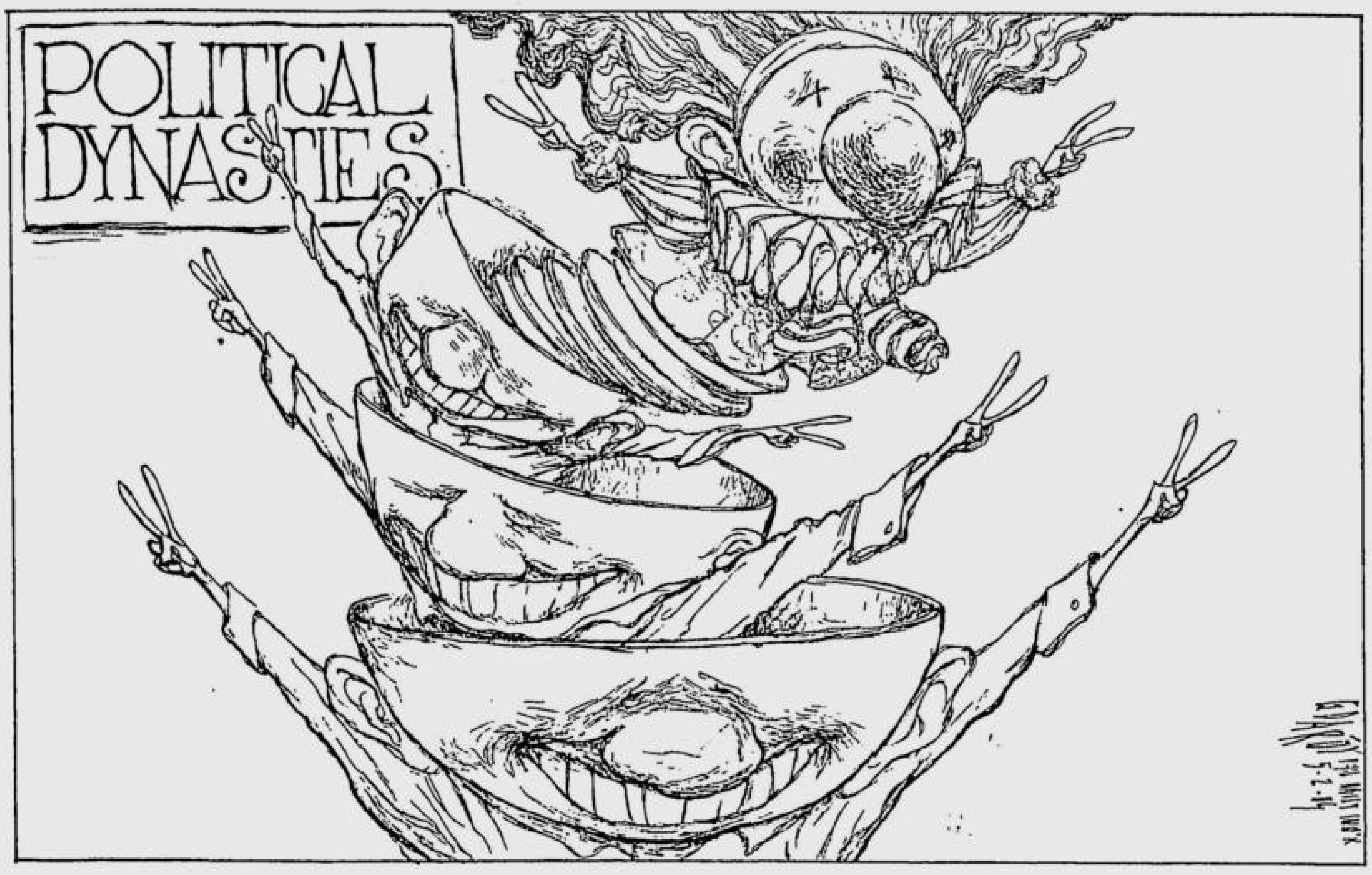
His curiosity was voracious, his contempt for the ivory tower absolute. Shy in the beginning, he would emerge in late adulthood the kind of person known to the uninitiated as a Character: boisterous, boozing, a cultural and political bon vivant. His booming voice was a trademark, sword and shield, hiding a soft heart and a dedicated brain.

How generations marveled at that brain! At home in Spanish, English, and his native Tagalog. Able to bridge centuries long lost to his contemporaries by virtue of ignorance of language, and the ever-changing present. No relict was he, no doddering remnant of a lost era. He was always firmly in the here and now—and yet always firmly in what was and had come before. How rich was the tapestry of his life; how utterly magnificent the products of his pen.

When his achievements in the realm of writing were to be proclaimed of national significance by a dictator, he resisted until he could strike a hard bargain. He accepted the gilded collar of rank that was proof of his proclamation as a National Artist when it became the golden key to securing the freedom of a dear friend. He made his pact with the devil knowing a glittering title today would only grow in luster even as the delusions of the dictator that bestowed it would disappear in the dust of history. And so it did. His death is mourned by a nation, and he receives a funeral with the full panoply the same nation has denied the dictator. Art truly conquers all.

In the days of the Cross and Sword, the first governors of Manila were decreed by Spain to be *adelentado*—commanders. Nick Joaquin was a fighter, engaged in that great fight to give a country illumination. He commanded words and made a holocaust of ignorance. The illumination of ideas, the creative spark that sets ablaze the imagination. The harsh light of truth, for him, could be expressed in the delicious irony of his reportage, or the meditative monologues of the characters in his plays, or the quiet epiphanies of the protagonists in his fiction. All was truth; all was, as he insisted, reality, seen through various lenses, distorted, if necessary, for the sake of craft but never subordinated to the essential duty of all true craftsmen: to magnify, even glorify, the things that count in a world and among a people for whom lies all too often live larger than the truth. He was a conqueror—of minds.

He is mourned, yes. He is, and will continue, to be missed. But as the great Filipino orators in Spanish were wont to say in final homage: Nick Joaquin, you live, even in death! Well done, good and faithful servant of the muses.



Happy anniversary!

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

TOMORROW marks the 52nd anniversary of my wedding to Sally, when she was only 20 years old. May I tell you about it?

I first met Sally when she was about 16 years old. She was a friend of my sister Letty and used to come to our house to make a telephone call or two. Whom she called I didn't know or care because she looked just like another kid to me. I was then already a serious adult of 23.

Sometimes, after making her calls, she would stay in our house when it was time to listen to "Gulong ng Palad," Lina Flor's popular radio drama. I didn't mind her much. After the show, she would walk back to her house, which was on the other street, only one block away from our place.

We had a party at home when my elder brother Virgilio passed the bar examinations, and Sally was there to help prepare the food. She just sliced the tomatoes and peeled the potatoes because she didn't know how to cook. I walked her home afterwards and waited for her as she changed to a party dress.

I became interested in her when I realized she was a very pretty girl with a pleasant personality. She had a good figure too (then) and was deeply religious. We started dating but always with, thankfully, an indulgent chaperone. It became my habit to fetch Sally from her office at the US Veterans Administration on the Escolta and later at the UE where she was taking night classes.

We were married at the San Miguel Pro Cathedral in the morning of May 3, 1952. Sally and I had taken care to limit the number of guests at our reception so as not to overshoot my father's budget. But he was then the president of the Municipal Board of Manila and invited all his friends in City Hall from Mayor Valeriano Fugoso down. The whole of the then swank Selecta overflowed with many guests Sally and I did not know from Adam.

Our honeymoon in Baguio was followed by five children in quick succession, all of them boys. I remember that when I reported the birth of my latest son Gani to my mother, she asked innocently about the child's sex. "*Lalaki, bakit?* " ("Male, why?") I replied in mock anger. My mother whooped in laughter and soon the news was all over our clan.

Outcounted 6 to 1, Sally was unwilling to yield until she had a daughter. She even walked on her knees at the Quiapo church to pray for one. God finally answered her pleas and after seven years from our fifth son's birth gave us our *bunso* and only daughter Candy. She is the apple of our eyes and her brothers' favorite sister.

Over the years, Sally learned to boil more than water by asking here and observing there. She is now an excellent cook. Otherwise, we would have had to eat outside in restaurants and use up all our savings in tips.

On schooldays, Sally took hot lunches to the children instead of giving them *baon* of cold sandwiches. She also bought them secondhand books at Recto to save on expenses. I did not have as much time for them because I was busy from morning till night as a "struggling young lawyer." But I made it a point to take out each of them one at a time, staying with the boy the whole day.

During their college days, the boys intercepted letters to me from the UP authorities informing me of their misdemeanors. Sally helped to shield them from my parental discipline. All of them graduated with, as far as I knew, exemplary conduct. Candy graduated with Latin honors.

One by one, the boys and, lastly, our only daughter got married and established their separate homes pursuant to Sally's policy of marital independence. Their total output for us was only six grandchildren, four boys and two girls.

The eldest of them, Powee, drowned in a swimming pool when he was only 4; he was the youngest member of our immediate family when he died and would have been 22 now had he lived. Tragedy struck us recently when two of our daughters-in-law passed away, Maybelle in 2001 and Annie a little over a year ago.

In 2002, our children surprised us with a big party to celebrate our golden wedding anniversary. Sally nearly fainted with unexpected joy. Our children had suggested that we observe the event with a quiet family dinner, just among ourselves except that we had to get dressed for a photo session. We didn't know it was to be with 200 guests.

Two of our sons are independent businessmen, and the other three are practicing lawyers and law professors. Candy is a summa cum laude Master of Divinity. Their father is a retired justice of the Supreme Court and is writing a column for this paper. Their Mom is Tita Sally to everyone else.

By and large, it has been a pleasant marriage for Sally and me. Our children and their children join us in thanking God for the bountiful life that began with our wedding 52 years ago tomorrow. And we give our thanks to all of you also for your kind congratulations.

Are you listening?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE PARISH priest was showing me around his church, and when we came to the garden, he said with much pride that his next project was to make a "garden of scents." Not quite sure if I heard him right, I said, "Oh, you mean a garden with so many flowers with different fragrances?"

"No, I will make a garden of scents," he insisted.

"Ah, you mean, like a garden with aromatic therapy?" I asked.

"No" he said, "I will make a garden depicting the lives of scents, you know, like St. Francis, St. Joseph, St. Claire and many more!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 10, 27-30), the Lord talks about His sheep who hear His voice. Are you one of the sheep who really hear His voice? No? That's because you are not listening or, maybe, because you are selectively listening. The precepts of the Lord are clear and audible, but our hearing is often wanting or lacking, or altogether evasive and elusive. We do know what is right and wrong, but often we refuse to choose what is right because it is easier to choose what is wrong. Hey, are you listening?

* * *

It is not enough to hear and listen. We must obey. If we look into our lives, there were times when we disobeyed God, and you and I must admit that those were the times we most regret now. Sin is basically refusing God's love and choosing the pleasurable, the easy and the comfortable, the precise and sure stuff that make our lives miserable.

* * *

With only eight days to go before the elections, expect a lot of snatching to happen. The most handy bait of course is money and the promise of power. Where is Satan these days? According to my sources, he is on vacation, somewhere. With all the money being released and peddled around these days, he wouldn't need to be personally present. His agents (secret and public) will do all the work for him! When money talks, a lot of people are silent or are silenced. Money also blinds the eyes, and deafens the ears. A lot of people will be snared and snatched by the lure of money and power especially these days. Some people will literally give and do anything, as in anything, in order to win in the coming elections. The bottom line is: What does it profit a person to win the elections and in the end lose his/her soul?

* * *

The May 10 elections will come and go. And then what? Either you won or you lost, right? If you lost, well, that's too bad.

But if you won with all the dirty tricks, well that's really, really bad. So you got your seat or retained your seat, but if you stepped on, fooled, bought, or even eliminated people in the process, then you have been "snatched from the Father's hand." Are you listening? Is it worth it all?

* * *

After all the shouting and fighting shall have subsided, if you can say, "I and the Father are one," then blessed are you! In everything we do, we must not lose sight of the Big Picture. The Big Picture is that we did not take God out of the picture.

* * *

Jesus promised that His sheep who follow Him will nor perish. Last Friday morning, a lost sheep found His way into the fold. I was there to welcome him with the sacrament of reconciliation. This, by far, is one of the biggest, if not the biggest "catch" I've ever had. You name it, he's done it all, over and over again. But also I have never met someone with so much humility and sincerity. I don't know how he will fare from this time on. All I know is that he has placed himself in the Father's hand. That is all that matters, for now.

* * *

Death is painful. But one of the most painful moments is when, after the loved one has died, the family has to go about the process of choosing the coffin, the clothes, etc. for the deceased. When I heard about the death of Mama Fely Biason, I passed by their house and there found Papa Sixto and his two sons Lito and Mael so stricken by their grief, but so united, too, in their grief.

The three were crying together, hugging together, making decisions together. I can almost see Mama Fely smiling as we prayed together, knowing that her "boys" will be okay and will carry on without her by their side, but so much with them in the Father's heart.

Yes, we are one in the Father, even in death, especially in death.

* * *

We did the Walk with God to Manaoag yesterday from Urdaneta, Pangasinan praying especially for clean, peaceful and honest elections. Let us all work hard and pray hard that the evil one and his agents will not be victorious in their evil intent and schemes. All we are saying is give peace and goodness a chance! May Mama Mary, the Queen of May, enfold the Philippines as we elect our leaders this May!

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, give me a listening ear, and an obedient heart so that at any moment in my life, I can say "I and the Father are one." Amen.

Discernment and quagmire

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST March, just before the Philippine Army marked its 107th anniversary, I got a phone call from Col. Anthony Alcantara, inviting me on behalf of Lt. Gen. Efren Abu, commanding general of the Philippine Army, to address a Senior Leaders Conference made up of division and brigade commanders who represent the future leaders of the Army. Most anniversary rites in the past consisted mainly of a parade and review with the Commander in Chief as guest of honor. So one may say that the conference was aimed at making more meaningful the annual celebration of Army Day. Unfortunately, I had a scheduled trip to Chicago for the first birthday of our latest grandchild.

But perhaps it was best that I was not around for this event. What I would have said to our senior Army commanders might have made people uncomfortable.

I have long given up on our politicians and, to my mind, the current electoral campaign does not offer much hope for the future. I fully subscribe to the view that more than democracy and its forms, what is urgently needed in our country is discipline and order before any meaningful, long-term development can take place. Under the present system we are headed farther south, and I don't mean the South Pole.

For our senior military leaders, I wish them the gift of discernment so that they may see beyond the uncertainties of the future toward a better life for our people.

* * *

As you watch CNN or BBC television coverage of the war in Iraq or read more detailed reports in the newspapers on the violence and resistance of insurgent forces in the country, the "Q" word comes to mind: Quagmire. The dictionary defines quagmire as a difficult, precarious situation or predicament much like being caught in quicksand. The more you struggle, the deeper you sink.

More than three decades ago, the United States found itself in such a situation in Vietnam. Ignoring the lessons of the past, they poured in men and equipment against the communist North, believing that superior technology and airpower would carry the day for them. But when the casualty count started to rise with no end in sight, the anti-war sentiment took over and the American people decided that it was time to pull out of the conflict.

Last week, for the first time since the start of Gulf War II in March 2003, Americans were shown pictures of flag-draped coffins bearing the bodies of soldiers killed in Iraq. The Defense Department actually prohibits the release of this type of pictures, but an employee of a defense contractor took the photos and released them to a Seattle newspaper. (She got fired from her job.) As more bodybags or coffins arrive from the Middle East, it will test the patience and determination of the American people who may be having second thoughts about the wisdom of engagement in Iraq. The latest New York Times poll registered the lowest support for the war since the invasion. Unfortunately, even more difficult than in Vietnam is crafting a withdrawal strategy that will enable the coalition to pull out without the appearance of a cop-out or surrender. As the former Central Command chief, Marine General Anthony Zinni, put it: "In that part of the world, strength is greatly respected and if you look weak, you're in trouble."

Just to give you an idea of the difficulties faced by US and coalition forces in Iraq, let me review briefly the breakdown of forces and the casualty count in Gulf War I and II. In Gulf War I in 1991, the coalition numbered close to 600,000 men coming from over 30 nations including the United States, United Kingdom, France, Canada and even Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria. Casualties from the ground war which actually lasted a little over four days, were 147 killed in action and 236 from accidents and other causes including friendly fire, or a total of less than 400. In Gulf War II, the coalition numbered about 150,000 in keeping with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's desire for a leaner invasion force, relying mainly on the use of overwhelming airpower to shock the enemy into submission. Since the announcement by President Bush of the end of major combat operations, coalition losses more than doubled, with those of last month alone accounting for over a hundred deaths from insurgency attacks. This has brought to light some of the weaknesses of US forces in Iraq; an occupation force too small for the job and possibly too vulnerable for a determined adversary fighting within its own turf.

All of these developments bring to mind one person who perhaps should have been listened to more carefully. Before his retirement as US Army Chief of Staff in June last year, Gen. Eric Shinseki, a grandson of Japanese plantation workers in Hawaii and a 1965 graduate of West Point, was asked what he felt should be the size of a peacekeeping force for Iraq. Drawing on his experiences in Kosovo, he mentioned the need for some 200,000 troops, a figure which Rumsfeld and his Deputy Paul Wolfowitz quickly dismissed as widely off the mark. Right now, with less than 130,000 on the ground in Iraq, the problem facing the US Army is how to generate more warm bodies without extending the tour of duty of troops already programmed for home redeployment.

A 'new dad' for the Senate

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MORE than two years ago, Orly Mercado and his wife, Dr. Susy Pineda-Mercado, had a baby boy whom they named Renzo. The boy, says Orly, is "my first child whom I have taken cared of." Though he has three children by his first wife, all of whom have given him five grandchildren, all older than Renzo, Orly was "too busy building my career" in broadcast journalism and later in politics to take a "hands-on" approach during their childhood, so he says.

But when Renzo was born, both Orly and Susy had left government service (Susy as undersecretary in the Department of Health, Orly as defense secretary) and Orly had just had a failed run for the Senate. While he kept busy teaching governance and policy at the La Salle Graduate School of Business and at the Philippine Christian College, and continued to host the public service show "Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko," he was free for most of the day. That time Orly spent mostly with Renzo, and when he tells the men among the rally crowds that "a man's masculinity is not weakened but in fact enhanced when he knows how to fold a diaper," you can be sure he knows what he's talking about.

Before guesting in "XYZone," the radio show I host every Saturday over Angel Radyo dzAR, Orly and Renzo were in the barber shop to get the boy's unruly mop of curly hair (inherited from his father) trimmed and tamed. "But he's going through the 'Terrible Two's,' so even if he had already been there before, he just kept saying 'No' when we tried to get him to sit in the barber's chair."

Orly tells the story with a mixture of exasperation and delight, and clearly this phase of renewed fatherhood agrees with him. When I ask him if he thinks his close relationship with Renzo and his exposure to the issues of childcare and family health will make him a better senator and public official, Orly smiles and says emphatically: "It has made me a better person!"

* * *

AND this, I think, is what makes Orly Mercado a particularly good prospect for the Senate. A self-confessed "policy wonk," Orly has both experience and boldness, marked by an ability to challenge vested interests and even hallowed social conventions.

But his fathering of Renzo, I think, gives him added depth. He will no longer be talking "theory" when he studies proposals on pre-school education, health subsidies, nutrition, or women's and children's rights. Unlike most of his male colleagues caught up in the frenzy of perpetual candidacy, Orly has this respite from the rat-race of politics to look back on and inform his decision-making.

Of course, his married women colleagues would have had some lead time over him, having gone through mothering before fathering had become fashionable. But there is, I think, some value still in role models and Orly is one heck of a role model of the "new" dad, for whom child care is not a novelty or a duty, but a source of pride and pleasure. Orly Mercado would surely make a good addition to the Senate.

* * *

INTRUDING into this political season is a season for grieving, for publicly and privately mourning for people who have passed away, leaving us all the poorer by their sudden, unexpected absence.

I remember reading the first of many text messages about Caloy Abrera's death and—as details of that terrible accident by the railroad tracks came in—feeling a sense of mounting horror and disbelief.

I had known Emily, Caloy's wife, long before I even got to meet Caloy. Once you make Caloy's acquaintance, it's difficult to forget him. One meeting in particular sticks to memory. Ed Santoalla and he had invited me to meet them in Rockwell so they could tell me about a new channel for NGO and community endeavors that their cable TV company was launching. I found both men seated around a table outside Santi's. Caloy's idea of a lunchtime schmooze was to order take-out from Santi's and share a bottle of red wine. It was the most unusual "business" lunch I ever had, and we ended up talking about the best tourist spots in the country and the prospects of social change. I can't blame friends who've known him longer and better for feeling so unfairly deprived of his company. But I think the country, the media industry in particular, lost a champion and a most creative mind.

Another creative artist we just lost is Arlene Borja, stage artist and raucous performer, a "Vagina Warrior" and mainstay in the cast of the annual "V-Day" benefit performance of "The Vagina Monologues."

Arlene is best known for her hilarious version of "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," known to fans as "the moans," in the Filipino version. The last time I saw her, at this year's V-Day, she was walking around in crutches, having just recovered from an accident where she broke a leg. But there she was, negotiating the rickety backstage steps at the Republic of Malate, aided by her young son and teen daughter, Angela, with whom she appeared onstage. Arlene has left us with enduring memories of loud laughter, fearless performance and blazing love for life.

* * *

FINALLY, we must as a nation mourn the passing of Nick Joaquin, who's become such a literary icon his younger readers must have been surprised to learn that he was still living, still guzzling beer, until recently.

Any young Filipino must have, as I did, felt some kind of electric current pass through her the first time she read Joaquin. For me, it was "The Woman Who Had Two Navels," and what I retain from the experience is the sense of wonder and pride that a Filipino writer could write in English with such confidence and verve.

The Filipino's search for identity was a constant theme and subject of Nick Joaquin. But he surely must have realized that his body of work played a large part in defining that identity and pride in being who and what we are.

The decline of political parties

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE DEMAND of responsible voters to know the platforms of the presidential candidates is quite tragic, if not amusing. Political platforms go hand in hand with political parties; they make no sense if there are no parties to carry them out. With the exception of a few party-list groups, political parties have become totally irrelevant in the 2004 elections.

Their role in choosing candidates has been reduced to zero. Almost everywhere, individuals carrying the banner of the same party are running against one another. To local politicians, the whole country has become a "free zone." Their link to national politics is not a program of action but a presidential candidate, to whom they turn not for leadership or guidance but for campaign funds.

Whoever wins the presidency in 2004 will owe nothing to any political party. The president will dictate the shape of coalitions in Congress, relying purely upon personal relations built during the campaign. No party will be strong or influential enough to whip its members into line and deal as one bloc with a powerful president.

This has implications for the anticipated shift to a parliamentary system. Those who dream of a 2007 transition triggered by the voluntary resignation of the elected president after three years are naïve. President Macapagal-Arroyo, who floated such an idea in a moment of weakness, would not want to be reminded of what she said if she wins in May. A parliamentary system would breathe new life to a moribund party system, and transfer to members of parliament powers now exclusively enjoyed by the executive. Why would any sitting president want to cut short what he/she worked so hard to win unless it is in exchange for remaining in power indefinitely?

The shift to a parliamentary system requires vigorous parties that can override the personal strength and cunning of individual politicians. Parties do not become strong without investing in elections. Sadly, in these elections, not one of the major political parties did what was necessary to earn the right to determine who may run, what issues should be carried, and how the campaign is to be managed. This explains how Lakas secretary general Heherson Alvarez found himself bumped off from his own party's senatorial slate, and why the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) ended up having two presidential candidates.

The marginalization of political parties is particularly notable in Pampanga, the President's home province. Here, the movie actor Lito Lapid, who is stepping down as governor after three forgettable terms, has chosen his 26-year-old son Mark, another actor, to be his successor. Lakas stalwarts Andrea Domingo, who served as Ms Macapagal's immigration commissioner, and Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, another GMA ally, had been eyeing the governorship for the longest time. The President brushed aside experience and competence to anoint Mark Lapid instead so that the elder Lapid would agree to join her senatorial slate. Domingo and Rodriguez are now running against each other for mayor of San Fernando.

Mirroring the fatal ambivalence of their own party's national leadership, Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) leaders—Rep. Rimpy Bondoc and Rep. Zeny Ducut—are slugging it out with the young Lapid. All of the above-named politicians are supporting the candidacy of Ms Macapagal, whose son, Mikey Arroyo, is running virtually unopposed in one of Pampanga's congressional districts.

It all boils down to money politics. Unable to deploy their own troops and resources, political parties are meekly taking their cues from the presidential candidates in order to stay alive. And in these elections, no other candidate, apart from the incumbent, has shown an inexhaustible capacity to purchase the loyalty of every local politician worth buying.

The collapse of the political parties signifies the return of the political clans as the principal agents of political mobilization at the local level. When we hear talk of political machine these days, we must note that the reference is not to political party machine but to the temporary coalition of local notables assembled by a presidential candidate in every place. This is a game for which Ms Macapagal has had the longest preparation and one in which she excels. The connections she taps go back to the era of her father. She has activated and strengthened these in the course of her own stint in government. They constitute a personal network that has served her steadily in place of charisma.

Educated voters have only worried about the entry of unworthy celebrities into politics. They have not paid equal attention to the retrogression in our national life that the resurgence of political dynasties represents. Since 1986, political families have managed to wrest control of local politics, shutting the door to public life to many highly qualified professionals. A good example is the progressive city of Las Piñas in Metro Manila, where the bright young UP-trained lawyer Roel Pulido has launched a quixotic quest to dislodge a member of the Aguilar clan from the city's lone congressional seat. Without any political party to back him up, Pulido has formed his own core of young volunteers to battle a machine that has been honed to perfection by decades of patronage. People think he is foolish, but there are many like him.

Perhaps the real hope for enduring change in these elections is to be found at the local level, where new faces confront the old without fear. They are the harbingers of a different future, the unorganized party of hope.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

Where laws are mere suggestions

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

AN AMERICAN anthropologist, writing a book on Philippine culture, featured a photo of a jeepney and its smiling driver, with the caption, "King of the Road"—he whose carriage epitomizes Pinoy culture in all its color and chaos, who weaves in and out of lanes to fill any empty space on the road, who loads and unloads passengers as he pleases. For him, laws are mere suggestions. Compliance optional, punishment negotiable.

Yet today we have democratized even the flouting of laws, and each Pinoy driver is now his own sovereign. Take "counter-flow," for instance. Start with the obvious: driving in the wrong lane is dangerous to your health. That is why, elsewhere, it takes an official act by government to order a counterflow, with fixed hours to reverse directions and guard against head-on collisions. Hereabouts, the Pinoy driver has seized that governmental power unto himself and declares a counter-flow at will. Advance notice to the approaching vehicle? Well, that's the purpose of hazard lights! And if the driver is truly careful? Of course he will blink his headlights all the way, but if in addition he still toots the car horn for good measure, we consider him paranoid. And, needless to say, all these without wearing a seat belt.

What has brought us to this, as "dog eat dog" on the roads degenerates to what a foreign general counsel called "piranha eat piranha"? Foreign scholars wonder: how can Filipinos exalt the Rule of Law in all its majesty, yet run every traffic light on the way to the forum? A foreign lawyer who worked in Manila with an international NGO concluded: Filipinos are "rule-burdened but not rule-bound."

The most common response is to blame the cops. That is so easy in a land where law enforcers are themselves the first law breakers. So you think it is suicidal to "counterflow" on a major boulevard like Edsa? I have personally seen vehicles going to the Camp Crame gate—seat of the Philippine National Police, no less—directly from Annapolis Street against the flow of cars bound for Makati. Now let us assume that these modern-day kamikazes are not with the PNP. The fact that they have dared so visibly right under the PNP's noses—not to mention the other counterflow problem beside Camp Aguinaldo, seat of our AFP—and actually get away with it only brings us to the second problem, the weak and uneven application of rules. But the "soft state" problem has many dimensions. Traffic enforcers are low-paid, untrained, ill-equipped, and can be bought cheaply. Those who ride motorbikes hire out themselves as "haggards" to escort VIPs, alive, through traffic or, dead, to the cemetery. They are scarcely aware that they command our obedience only because they bear insignias of the public power, symbolizing a public interest that towers above our private and personal claims. For the Pinoy, the uniformed officer is merely a blue guard who wears a different-colored costume.

But this is not an apologia for the Pinoy law-breaker. Chastisement is cheap for as long as we chastise another. It is so easy for investigative TV to caricature our police as corrupt, but that is unfair. I have met many in our police who are self-respecting professionals, yet the bad eggs hog the menu of images in the public mind. The bribe-takers are condemned as balm to the consciences of the bribe-givers. The Filipino must face up to his own part of the problem. Recalling JFK with a twist, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you have done to your country. When it comes to the Pinoy not following rules, what gives?

At the outset, we cannot deny an element of upper-class arrogance against the plebeian traffic enforcers. I thought that two Edsa revolutions had made democrats out of us all, but they haven't. The air-conditioned, drivers and riders alike, take one look at the sweaty and low-schooled, baking under the noonday sun, and casually shoo them away and dare their pedicabs to take chase.

But there is a more insidious, more encompassing and class-neutral dilemma. We ourselves are confused on what we expect of our public officers. Officially, we idealize a "government of laws and not of men," standing above the fray, impervious to appeals for compassion, and sworn only to uphold the law. But really now, we want our officers to be "*madaling kausapin,*" "*may pakisama,*" and "*may malasakit.*" We want our rules to be elastic, our justice negotiable, the public interest bendable to suit private wants. Our schizoid attitude to rules is exemplified by that wonderful TV ad showing passengers of a smoke-belching jeepney mumbling amongst themselves that the smoke was poisoning their lungs. When the police stopped the jeepney for smoke-belching, these same passengers cursed the police for causing delay and inconvenience.

Shakespeare said: "We must not make a scarecrow of the law, Setting it up to fear the birds of prey, And let it keep one shape, till custom make it Their perch and not their terror."

If Moses had been Pinoy, he would have swooped down from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Suggestions. Yet for Asia's Chosen People, calling it the Ten Commandments hasn't made any difference, because we can second-guess each item just the same, and in the end carve enough exceptions to the sacred covenant "till custom make [law] Their perch and not their terror." The problem, my people, lay not in the rules but in our hearts, that we speak legalistically but choose viscerally. We look at interests and pretend to see only principles. The Rule of Law in the Philippines can work only by confessing to be myth, and that is why instead we romanticize the Rule of Law in grand rhetoric and subvert its day-to-day workings in ad hoc compromises.

THEY SAID

Messiahs and power

"Self-appointed messiahs promise the illusion of power, when genuine power is already in people, waiting only to be awakened."

—Philosophy professor Fr. Ferdinand R.S. Santos

Admission of failure

"Legalizing prostitution is admitting failure. Prostitution is basically about lack of economic opportunities, but if provided with the right atmosphere, this social problem can be minimized, if not totally eradicated."

—Vice-presidential candidate Hermie Aquino

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Senate bets oppose death penalty

THE DEATH of Leo Echegaray by lethal injection in 1999 has not deterred the commission of heinous crimes. Rape, drug trafficking, kidnapping and robbery with homicide are still rampant.

It's becoming clear that effective law enforcement and certainty of punishment can better deter crime than the death penalty.

Because of the flaws in the justice system, a number of those on death row could be innocent. Many of them are poor who were not able to avail themselves of the services of private lawyers.

Candidates	Death Penalty	Legalization of Prostitution
Alvarez, Heherson Independent	Only for heinous crimes as the law prescribes. But the death sentence must be reviewed every four years and stricken off our statute books unless we can reform our judicial and penal system.	Prostitution is dehumanizing and amoral. It must not be legally sanctioned, although prostitutes must be protected medically and socially against exploitation. They must also be rehabilitated and offered alternative livelihood.
Anson-Roa, Boots Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP)	I am pro-life. There has been too much debate on this issue, and the consensus seems to be that the death penalty has not been proven to be an effective deterrent to the commission of heinous crimes. If elected to the Senate, I will file a bill seeking to abolish the death penalty.	Another non-negotiable issue. Prostitution is a social ill that must be solved by addressing its causes.
Barbers, Robert K-4 Coalition	Death penalty is a deterrent to the commission of crime and this, as a law enforcer for many years, I was able to prove. Take the case of Lim Seng, a Chinese drug lord who was sentenced to die by firing squad, which resulted in a significant drop in crime rates in Metro Manila,	He who has not committed a sin should cast the first stone. Men and women who engage in prostitution should not be condemned. Unemployment and poverty are the reasons why prostitution persists, and these major problems we must continuously address.
Biazon, Rodolfo K-4 Coalition	It should be re-examined and each case assessed to determine whether it is a deterrent to the commission of heinous crimes.	No.
Cayetano, Pia K-4 Coalition	The death penalty law was enacted in 1993 to deter the commission of heinous crimes. It is, therefore, appropriate to evaluate whether its imposition deters heinous crimes. I think, the real solution to the rising incidence of crime is the certainty and the swiftness of punishment.	Young women who resort to prostitution are victims. They are forced into it, most often by circumstance, to provide sustenance and a better future for themselves and their loved ones. The issue that needs to be addressed is the inadequacy of job opportunities and the rising cost of commodities.
Chavez, Frank Alyansa ng Pag-asa	I go along with the Alyansa ng Pag-asa position that we're pro-life.	Prostitution is a thriving business in the Philippines. It's a misperception that since we're the only Christian nation in Asia, we should not favor prostitution. But remember Spain itself has legalized prostitution. That is why when you go to Madrid, you see Casa de Puta.
Coo, Olivia "Bong" Alyansa ng Pag-asa	We must give offenders a chance to change. Once the state executes a death convict, the latter's family suffers more, because it is difficult to stay alive without a father as a breadwinner. After Leo Echegaray was executed in 1999, the incidence of rape still increased.	No, because women should be treated with dignity. That is one reason we get into sports because sports, according to the UN Charter, will curb prostitution. So the International Olympic Committee is pushing women's active participation in sports. Prostitution is exploitation.
Dilangalen, Didagen KNP	The death penalty law must be preserved. Its implementation is a judgment call of the Chief Executive.	Prostitution is immoral and must never be tolerated.
Enrile, Juan Ponce KNP	I am against death penalty and I voted against it when I was in Congress. Be that as it may, we have to contend with the law, and the Chief Executive must carefully balance his or her duty to implement the law with the power to grant pardon or reprieve, which the Constitution reposes solely on the President.	I am against legalizing prostitution.
Escudero, Sonny KNP	I am against the death penalty. Certainty of punishment is the key to our peace and order problem and not the taking of a human life, especially given our not-so-perfect justice and court system.	I am against the legalization of prostitution. It undermines the moral fiber of individuals as well as that of their respective families.
Estrada, Jinggoy KNP	I am for death penalty. It is a deterrent to heinous crimes, especially drug pushing and rape.	Definitely no. We are already known as a nation of mendicants.
Gatmaytan, Nicanor, Jr. Alyansa ng Pag-asa	I'm not in favor because the commission of heinous crimes and the imposition of the death penalty is just a manifestation of the failure of governance. The government should instead make the accused more productive. He should be reformed.	No. Morality itself is hard to (define). You cannot legalize that.
Gordon, Richard K-4 Coalition	My father was killed after three prior assassination attempts. I am for the death penalty because this is the punishment prescribed by law for heinous crimes. I am for the modernization of the law enforcement authority's capability to solve crime through modern and scientific methods of investigation.	Prostitution happens. What is important is that people who are prostituted (in the sense of being hired for sex) are protected from abuse and the contraction of diseases. By creating more employment and livelihood opportunities, prostitution can be greatly minimized.
Herrera, Ernesto KNP	Capital punishment remains valid for heinous crimes—that for convicted murderers, drug traffickers, rapists and kidnappers. Death penalty is not only just but also necessary to protect and preserve our society and to enhance the value of human life.	While our laws against prostitution obviously don't work, legalizing it is not the answer. What the government has to do is provide more decent jobs so that people have choices. Few people will readily sell sex for a living unless they are forced by circumstances.
Hussin, Parouk K-4 Coalition	It should be imposed in accordance with the provision of the law. However, sufficient safeguards should be put in place to ensure that laws are judiciously and equitably applied.	No. Women should be respected and protected. Legalizing prostitution is like the ultimate form of disrespect that one can give to a woman. In so doing, we will degrade the status of women from being a person to becoming a commodity.
Jaworski, Robert K-4 Coalition	I abhor the taking of one's life but we should follow the mandate of law until it is repealed. The law presumes an accused to be innocent until he is proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt by a competent court.	Although prostitution is now legalized in several countries, I strongly believe that women are not sex objects and must be given due respect by men.
Joson, Edno Alyansa ng Pag-asa	From the start, I don't find any exception to the seventh commandment, "Thou shall not kill." There is no such thing as a state taking the life of the offender.	No, basically respect for our women and our race should be intact. We can't say that there is dignity in prostitution. Although food is important, in the end one's name and one's honor matter most.
Lapid, Lito K-4 Coalition	If this is done with the restructuring of our justice system, strengthening of the police and the Witness Protection Program, death penalty can be a great deterrent to heinous crimes.	I am not for legalization because at stake is more than the issue of trade or profession. It is an issue of morality, of sex as a sacred act that is thrown away if prostitution is legalized.
Lim, Alfredo KNP	There are many crimes such as political ones for which the penalty should not be death. But I still favor retaining the penalty for the crimes of murder, robbery with homicide, brigandage, kidnapping, rape, large-scale swindling and drug trafficking.	Definitely, I am not in favor of legalizing it because it debases the dignity of women. The fundamental law guarantees decent, safe, and healthful working conditions for women. Prostitution, for sure, is outlawed under our Charter.
Maceda, Ernesto KNP	I voted in favor of the death penalty, but I changed my mind. I'm now against it.	I'm also against the legalization of prostitution because it's a tough act. Are we saying that just because we can not stop illegal drugs, we will legalize them? That's not the way to deal with the problem.
Madrigal, Jamby KNP	Until the law is repealed or amended, I am for its enforcement. Death penalty should cover only heinous crimes as it is now provided. The problem lies, however, in the courts of justice, which are not always correct in their decisions.	Whether we admit it or not, prostitution exists. My view is to regulate the practice by legalizing it in selected areas subject to strict rules and regulations to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.
Mauricio, Mel "Batas" Alyansa ng Pag-asa	I'm against it. First, penalties are always aimed at reforming the offender. When you kill someone as a form of penalty, you are already removing the chance to reform. Second, only God can take away life because only God gives life.	No, because although it is a way to become economically self-sufficient, it erodes the moral fiber of society. To have sex with someone as a consequence of money exchanging hands is wrong. You can't legislate morality.
Mercado, Orly K-4 Coalition	I am not in favor of the death penalty.	Legalize the trade within the zones identified by the local government units. This should help ensure that health safeguards are met and that sex workers (and clients) are of legal age and not forced into it. Outside the zones, the trade should be illegal.
Osmeña, John K-4 Coalition	Deterrent for crime and not penalty is what matters. Nevertheless, for as long as this is within our statutes we should implement the law rather than keep on "staying" executions.	No. Women should be accorded every respect possible.
Padilla, Carlos Senatorial bet of Panfilo Lacson	I am pro-life. I am in favor of repealing the death penalty.	I am not in favor.
Pimentel, Aquilino, Jr. KNP	Death penalty ought to be repealed because it cannot reform criminals. It does not qualify as a civilized way of achieving retributive justice and it is not a deterrent to crimes. Imposition of the death penalty and the probable execution of innocent convicts is the "ultimate nightmare," a barbaric act that cannot be rectified.	Trafficking women and prostitution have no place in a civilized society. Efforts must be strengthened to eliminate this malady.
Rasul-Bernardo, Amina KNP	Death must be accessible to all, not just to the poor. While the law is still there, implement it fully. Death penalty works as a deterrent in Saudi Arabia because it is implemented fully and the justice system works.	I'd rather prosecute the pimps and the customers, who feed off the misery of the prostitute, and give the latter income-generating alternatives.
Revilla, Ramon "Bong", Jr. K-4 Coalition	I take the stand of the religious groups. Nobody, except God, can take away the life of a person.	My upbringing has taught me the evil of prostitution. I am against it.
Roxas, Manuel "Mar" III K-4 Coalition	I am for the death penalty as punishment for the most heinous crimes. (The present list needs to be reduced). Others view capital punishment as an ineffective deterrent. Let there be further study on this. Our biggest challenge is in apprehending, prosecuting and convicting the criminals.	I see no reason to legalize prostitution.
Santiago, Miriam K-4 Coalition	As a rule, I oppose the death penalty because every person has a potential for conversion. The death penalty cheapens life.	If we conduct a survey among grade school kids in public schools, I doubt if we can get any female kid expressing the ambition of turning into a prostitute. No normal Filipina aspires to be a prostitute; she is driven to this means of livelihood, because of the failure of the state to give her a fair opportunity for happiness in life.
Sonza, Jay Alyansa ng Pag-asa	The penalty of death for only one offense: drug-related. Otherwise, I go for imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole.	In countries like Korea, they have a zone for prostitutes. In Metro Manila, they are everywhere: Farmer's, Makati Avenue, Quezon Avenue. We need to put them in one zone so that it is easier to contain people and venereal diseases. Second, you can check minors. As it is now, every KTV is a front for prostitution.
Tatad, Francisco KNP	As senator, I opposed the reimposition of the death penalty. I continue to oppose it. Even now, I believe the death penalty law is of doubtful constitutional validity. Only a reformed justice and police system can and will deter crime.	This is a willful importation of the worst diseases from outside. Our Constitution, our customs, and our predominantly Christian culture are directly opposed to these ideas. Precisely because they are morally wrong.
Yasay, Perfecto Alyansa ng Pag-asa	I want that repealed because it has never been a deterrent. Congress passed a law that included plunder or wholesale corruption as a capital offense in which the penalty is death. Do we see public officials deterred by that? A reduction of corruption since that time?	They say that certain laws that try to regulate immoral conduct is dependent upon the prevailing moral standards. I'm against prostitution. You can't legislate morality.

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Cavite leaders see GMA win amid opposition's division

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—Members of an influential political clan in Cavite and staunch supporters of presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson have warned that the victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo is imminent as merger talks between the feuding opposition camps of Lacson and actor Fernando Poe Jr. seemed unattainable.

Incumbent Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla said only the "real united opposition" could prevent the President's victory in the coming elections and "ensure the victory of the masses."

Remulla, who is running for reelection under the Magdalo Party, quoted the current trend of election surveys which showed Ms Macapagal's ratings going higher and her lead widening over closest rival and Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) standard-bearer Poe Jr.

"For me, I believe in surveys. And the latest results showed the President's widening lead over Senator Lacson and FPJ. Now, how can the opposition reverse that? A united opposition is the only way," Remulla told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

But he maintained that Ms Macapagal's triumph "is not 100 percent sure." He said their family and the whole Cavite province are still solid behind Lacson, said to be the province's favorite son.

"All I'm saying is that her chances (of winning the presidency) are stronger because of a (divided opposition)," he added.

When asked about the possibility of Lacson and Poe's merger, he said: "Unfortunately, it's zero."

Rep. Gilbert Remulla of the second district said despite Ms Macapagal's lead in the surveys, Lacson would still be getting the votes from Cavite and nearby provinces in Calabarzon.

He denied reports that they have already withdrawn their support from Lacson in favor of Poe.

"Whatever happens, Senator Lacson would win in Cavite. Our family is still behind him and there's no doubt about it," Gilbert said.

Two weeks ago, reports came out about the Remullas' withdrawal of support from Lacson after the family had a falling out with incumbent Gov. Ireneo Maliksi, one of the pillars of local politics in Cavite.

Maliksi, who is also seeking another term, dumped Crispin Remulla in the latter's bid for a House seat in the province's second district.

Remulla said they tried talking with Maliksi to iron out their differences but "his doors are closed for us."

"But I still hope we could find other ways to ensure a Magdalo victory in May 10," he said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Voters' list padding cases raised

VICTORIA, Laguna—With barely 10 days before the national and local elections, problems with the computerized voters' list (CVL) continue to hound Laguna province.

On Friday afternoon, about 80 supporters and followers of mayoral candidate Dwight Kampitan trooped to the office of town election officer Princesita Obiniana and assailed the alleged discrepancies in the voters' list that the local election office had supposedly distributed to the candidates.

Teresita Olivar, Kampitan's secretary, said that after they obtained a copy of the CVL from the provincial Commission on Elections office here on April 26, they were stunned when they found out that several names of voters appeared on the list more than once.

"Some names even appeared six times. We also discovered that some dead persons are still on their list. Because of that, the number of legitimate voters increased," she told the INQUIRER. He said some names were also transferred to other precincts. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

78 held for gun ban violation

DAVAO CITY—A total of 78 persons had been arrested in Southern Mindanao since the implementation of the Comelec gun ban on January 15.

Senior Supt. Samuel Navaja, the regional police's deputy for operations, said 70 others were arrested for concealment of deadly weapons.

Navaja said most of these arrests occurred in checkpoints, where "Oplan-Kapkap" was being implemented.

Navaja did not give specifics as to the social status of those arrested for possession of guns and other weapons.

Human rights and Muslim groups have decried the recent arrests without warrants of terror suspects in Mindanao and elsewhere. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
34TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
EDSA Shangri-la Manila * May 4 - 7, 2004

Malacañan Palace
Manila

I commend the men and women of the **Philippine College of Physicians** for spearheading this *34th Annual Convention,* aimed at disseminating current knowledge and technologies in the field of Internal Medicine and improving the quality of healthcare in the country.

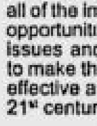
This event, with the theme, *"TQM: Towards Quality Medical Practice,"* reminds us all of the important role you play in creating new opportunities that will help address critical health issues and challenges. It bolsters our efforts to make the Philippine healthcare system more effective and responsive to the demands of the 21st century.

The need to strengthen our society has compelled the government to put primacy on the reinforcement of healthcare. I am pleased to note that the Philippine College of Physicians has taken up this challenge by making significant strides in the development of innovative treatment and techniques in the medical field. We welcome this event as a venue to consolidate the ranks of all doctors in the field of Internal Medicine whose efforts to promote health and well-being have contributed to a better quality of life.

I am confident that this convention will result in new medical breakthroughs being adopted to promote and achieve a world-class Philippine healthcare system.

Sama-sama tayo tungo sa isang matatag na Republika!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines
04 May 2004



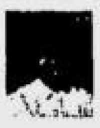
PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
PMA Building, North Avenue
Quezon City

With sincerest expressions of fellowship on behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we heartily greet the officers and members of the Philippine College of Physicians on the occasion of its 34th Annual Convention.

We are only too happy to be one with you, the country's internists on this propitious occasion. The awesome preparations that went into the production of this grandiose affair must have been nothing short of marvel. Your theme, *"TQM: Towards Quality Medical Practice,"* provides a rosy expectation of high quality specialist care, as well as of providing for care that is cost effective. You deserve commendation for your scientific assemblage that presents a kaleidoscope of hard edge topics to make this event truly a glittering showcase of interactive scientific sessions. We join you in looking forward to a most fruitful and productive convention.

Congratulations. Mabuhay ang Philippine College of Physicians.

JOSE T. SANCHEZ, M.D.
President
May 4, 2004



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I greet the organizers and participants of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) on the holding of their 34th Annual Convention.

As we move towards the new millennium, new challenges and innovations awaits our medical practioners. It is imperative that we, in the health sector, must apply our acquired knowledge and new discoveries with utmost care for the benefit of our countrymen.

The holding of this convention will surely contribute much knowledge and at the same time strengthen and revitalize the bonds of camaraderie among members.

Let us work in unity and with vigor in realizing our common goal of a healthy citizenry and improved health care !

Mabuhay kayong lahat !

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health
Manila
04 May 2004

Philippine College of Physicians
One San Miguel Avenue
Pasig City

The premiere mission of the Philippine College of Physicians is to lead in setting the highest standards in medical diagnosis, treatment, prevention and service in the Philippines by providing Continuing Medical Education and training of its present and future members and staff and providing an environment that promotes ethical, high quality and cost effective medical care. This mission is aptly exemplified by the theme of the 34th Annual Convention – "TQM: Towards Quality Medical Practice".

In behalf of the Organizing Committee of the Philippine College of Physicians, it is my honor and privilege to invite our colleagues in the medical profession to attend this convention on May 4 – 7, 2004 at the EDSA Shangri-la Manila. Rest assured that the topics put up by the Scientific Committee will further enhance your clinical practice quality wise.

We hope to see you this May at the EDSA Shangri-la Manila.

Mabuhay!

ADRIAN C. PEÑA, MD, FPCP
Vice President
and Chair, Organizing Committee

Philippine College of Physicians
One San Miguel Avenue
Pasig City

In behalf of the officers and members of the Board of Regents, I take pleasure in inviting you to our 34th Annual Convention on May 4-7, 2004 at the EDSA Shangri-la Manila in Mandaluyong City.

The Organizing Committee has chosen the theme "TQM: Towards Quality Medical Practice". The Scientific Committee has prepared a scientific program that encompasses both science and the art of medicine. Indeed, this event will provide medical practitioners with an opportunity not only to be updated on the advances in medicine but also to be reminded that striving to be a complete physician means healing not only through the use of advanced technologies... but through the use of our hearts. As physicians, we must aim not only to be 'successful', but strive to be 'fulfilled'. Our work is not just about how many lives we save...but how many lives we have touched and changed. It comes from the simple joy of knowing that 'today, our patient walked out the door with new hope not because we wrote out a prescription, but, because we truly showed him that we are here to give support.

We look forward to your wholehearted support to this CME event and annual gathering of internists in the country.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and prayers.

VICENTE JOSE Y. VELEZ, MD, FPCP
President

Philippine College of Physicians
One San Miguel Avenue
Pasig City

Dear Colleagues,

You are cordially invited to participate in the 34th annual convention of the Philippine College of Physicians on May 4 - 7, 2004 at the EDSA Shangri-la Manila.

In consonance with one of the main thrusts of the PCP Misison Vision, which is the promotion of high quality, ethical and cost-effective medical care, the convention theme for 2004 is "TQM: Towards Quality Medical Practice".

The convention will highlight the discussion of the principles of qualtity assurance, continuous quality improvement, cost-effectiveness and their application in healthcare delivery. Emphasis will also be given to the art and ethics of medical practice.

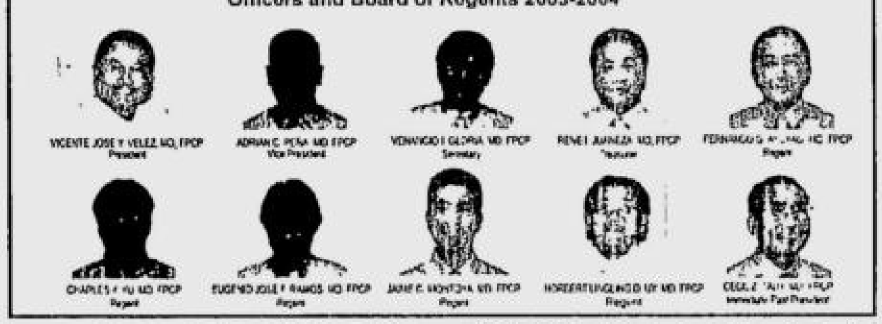
Aside from the plenary sessions, convention symposia, interactive case discussions, and basic clinical skills enhancement, we will be featuring sessions on: practice guidelines, technology update, literature update and PCP-funded research output.

The popular sunrise sessions will discuss medical controversies, economics of practice and ethical / legal issues.

The Organizing Committee is making all the preparations to ensure an annual convention that is scientifically stimulating, socially rewarding and worthwhile attending.

ALBERTO T. CHUA, MD, FPCP
Chair, Scientific Committee
34th Annual Convention

Philippine College of Physicians
Officers and Board of Regents 2003-2004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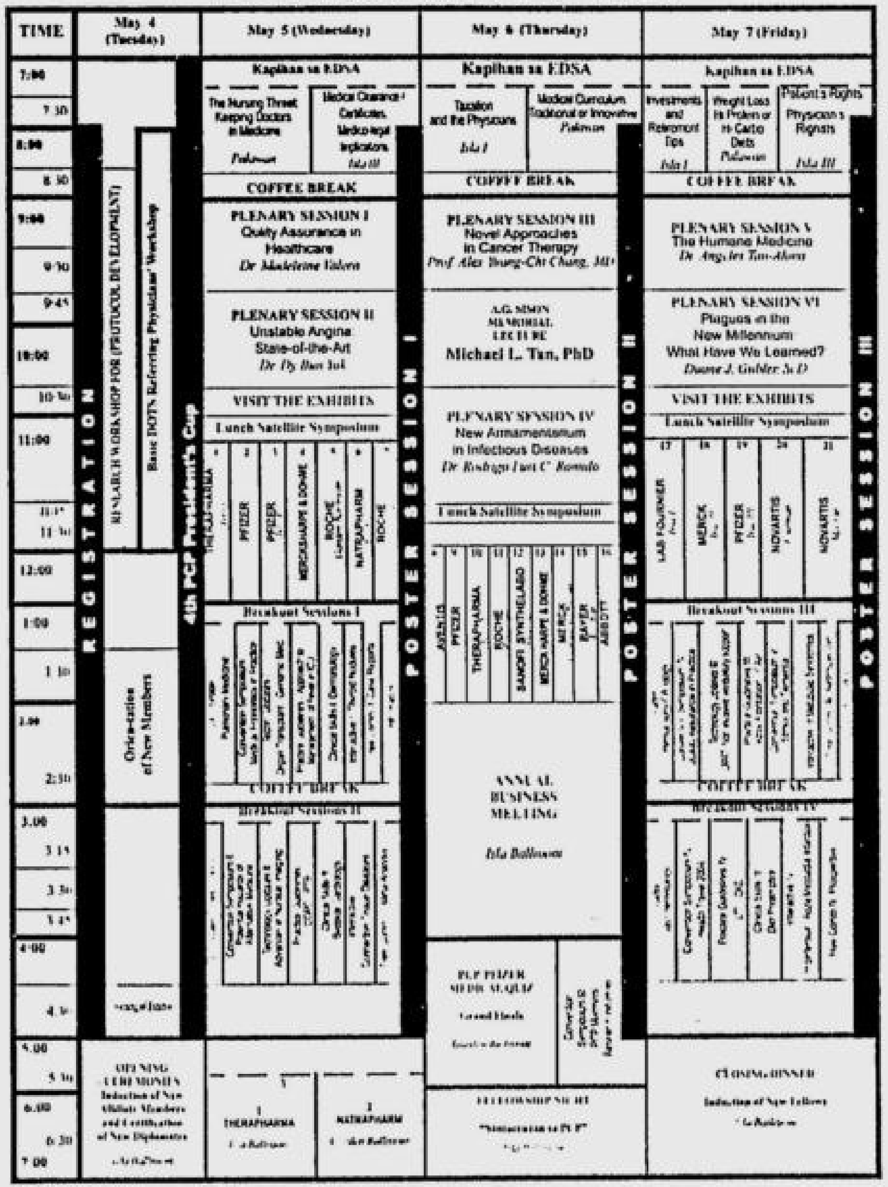
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Regent
Regent
Regent
Regent
Regent
Immediate Past President

2004 College Awardees

Most Distinguished Physician Award
Distinguished Teacher Award
Distinguished Researcher Award
Distinguished Internist Award
Distinguished Fellow Award

"TQM: Towards Quality Medical Practice"
EDSA Shangri-la Manila, May 4 - 7, 2004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May 4 (Tuesday)
May 5 (Wednesday)
May 6 (Thursday)
May 7 (Friday)
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REGISTRATION
RESEARCH WORKSHOP FOR (PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT)
Basic DOTS Referring Physicians' Workshop
4th PCP President's Cup
Orientation of New Members
POSTER SESSION I
POSTER SESSION II
POSTER SESSION III
Kapihan sa EDSA
The Nursing Threat: Keeping Doctors in Medicine
Medical Clearance / Certificates, Medico-legal Implications
Taxation and the Physicians
Medical Curriculum Traditional or Innovative
Investments and Retirement Tips
Weight Loss Hi Protein or Hi Carbo Diets
Patient's Rights Physician's Rights
COFFEE BREAK
PLENARY SESSION I
Quality Assurance in Healthcare
PLENARY SESSION II
Unstable Angina State-of-the-Art
PLENARY SESSION III
Novel Approaches in Cancer Therapy
A.G. SIMON MEMORIAL LECTURE
Michael L. Tan, PhD
PLENARY SESSION IV
New Armamentarium in Infectious Diseases
PLENARY SESSION V
The Humane Medicine
PLENARY SESSION VI
Plagues in the New Millennium What Have We Learned?
VISIT THE EXHIBITS
Lunch Satellite Symposium
PFIZER
MERCK SHARP & DOHME
ROCHE
NATRAPHARM
THERAPHARMA
SANOFI SYNTHELABO
BAYER
ABBOTT
LAB FOURNIER
MERCK
NOVARTIS
Breakout Sessions I
Breakout Sessions II
Breakout Sessions III
Breakout Sessions IV
COFFEE BREAK
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OPENING CEREMONIES
Induction of New Affiliate Members and Certification of New Diplomates
FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
CLOSING DINNER
Induction of New Fellows

SPECIAL MEETINGS:
- Development of Implementation Guidelines for the Self Assessment Program for Residents - 4 May 2004, Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. * Palawan
- Annual Meeting of Accredited Hospitals - 4 May 2004, Tuesday 12:00 nn - 3:00 p.m. * Palawan
- Annual Meeting of PCP Chapters & Component/Affiliate Societies - 5 May 2004, Wednesday 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. * Summer Palace
- Alumni meetings will be scheduled on 5 May 2004 Wednesday

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SCHOLAR'S OPINION

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UNEASY PEACE PDI PHOTO

A woman walks past an Army armored vehicle in Camp Abubakar, once one of the biggest camps of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

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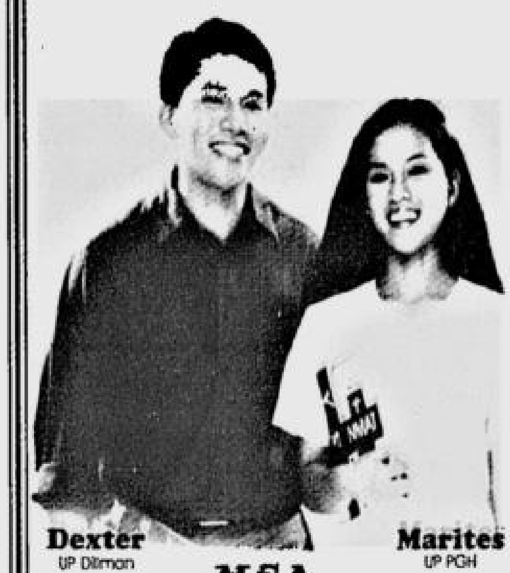

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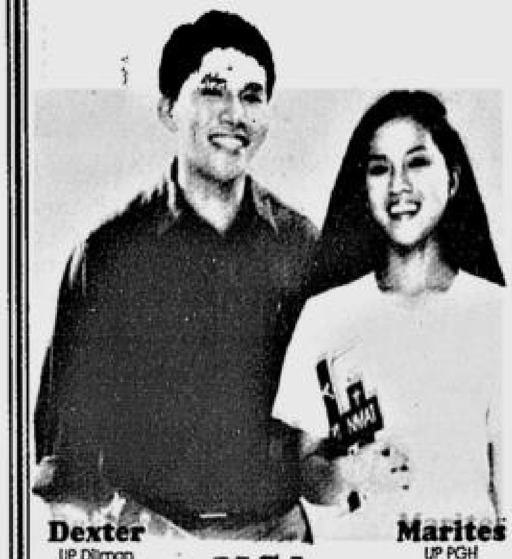

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Pantabangan dam reaches record high water level

CABANATUAN CITY—Water level at the Pantabangan Dam, one of the biggest earthen dams in Southeast Asia, for this summer registered an unprecedented high on Saturday, dam officials said.

The water level at the dam's reservoir on Saturday was recorded at 193.75 meters. In the past, since 1974 when the dam started operating, water level at this time of the year used to be between 173 and 188 meters.

In 1983, the water level in the 8,000-hectare reservoir dropped to an all-time low of 172 meters, which caused the old town site of Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, to reappear.

Pantabangan was the only town in the country that was submerged. It was transferred to an area overlooking the vast reservoir.

Antonio Nangel, operations manager of the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPRIIS) of the National Irrigation Administation (NIA), said due to Pantabangan's high water level, about 40,000 hectares of farmlands have been scheduled for irrigation in southern Nueva Ecija this month.

Early

He said this schedule is two months earlier than the usual wet season planting. After harvest, the next cropping season will also be programmed earlier than usual.

He said irrigation water would be released in late June or early July in the northern part of the province.

Nangel said water elevation in the dam's reservoir reached a record high of 214.47 meters in December 2003. This resulted, he said, in the addition of about 10,000 hectares to the programmed areas to be irrigated this last dry season cropping.

Nangel said they could start the rehabilitation of irrigation canals and other facilities since farmers could plant early for the two cropping seasons.

He attributed the high water level at the Pantabangan Dam's reservoir to the operation of the multibillion-peso Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP) in Nueva Vizcaya.

Tunnel

The project, through a 26-km tunnel, diverts part of the water flow from two rivers in Nueva Vizcaya to the Pantabangan Dam reservoir.

But farmers in five towns and one city in northern Nueva Ecija are dismayed about the delayed completion of canals that will deliver irrigation water from the Pantabangan Dam to their rice fields.

These areas—Guimba, Talugtog, Cuyapo, Nampicuan and Lupao towns and the Science City of Muñoz—are supposed to be the immediate beneficiaries of the Casecnan project.

"Based on what I see, the construction of the canals will not be completed soon. Those who are benefiting from the dam's water are still the same farmers who have already been benefiting from it," a farmer in Guimba said.

The 64-km diversion canal and the more than 400 km of lateral canals are still being built. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

PRETTY SIGHT

TOOTS SOBERAÑO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The streets of Dagupan City burst into colors and sounds as it held a feast for its most famous product, the *bangus*, drawing these young women in bright-colored costumes into their best performances.

Judge orders release of 3 political prisoners held in Cebu City jail

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Three political detainees here have been released as part of the confidence-building measures for peace negotiations with the mainstream communist rebels.

Alison Alcantara, Rodulfo Canedo and Janeth Montecalvo were finally reunited with their families on Wednesday after languishing in jail for several years.

They were among the 32 political prisoners nationwide whom the government promised to release by May 5 as part of confidence-building measures for the third round of peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front in Oslo Norway.

Alcantara, Canedo and Montecalvo joined about 50 human rights activists in a rally in front of Camp Sergio Osmeña Sr., headquarters of the Police Regional Office in Central Visayas, to demand the release of the other 310 political prisoners in the country, four of whom are in Cebu.

They also called for the release of Ronald Evidente, the fifth nominee of Anak ng Bayan party-list group, who is detained at the Negros Oriental Provincial Jail for allegedly killing a member of the Revolutionary Proletariat Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade.

In a statement, the three said their newfound freedom would not stop them from seeking the release of other political prisoners and from fighting against human rights violations perpetrated by the government.

"Now released, we vow to continue this struggle in the bigger societal jail that is our country through the parliament of the streets," they said.

Alcantara told the INQUIRER that he would join the activities of Karapatan, a human rights group, especially in the campaign for the release of other political prisoners.

"We are part of the re-affirmist group and we hope that the ongoing peace talks will be successful. I'll be working with Karapatan to lobby (for) the release of other political detainees," he said.

Several regional trial court judges here released the three prisoners on cognizance based on the motion filed by Chief Public Attorney Persida Rueda-Acosta.

They were placed under the custody of Rev. Rey Gelloagan of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) pending the trial of their cases.

Alcantara was jailed at the Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center (CPDRC) in 1996 to face trial for murder, double frustrated murder and illegal possession of firearms charges.

Canedo had been detained since 1996 after he was named Alcantara's co-accused in a murder case for allegedly killing Allan Ababon in Talisay City in May 1994.

'Biyaheng Gloria' vows war on fraud

"BIYAHENG Gloria," a 45-day nationwide people's relay caravan, continues to advocate for a voter's education campaign to inform voters of their right to stay vigilant against massive cheating and terrorism in the May 10 elections.

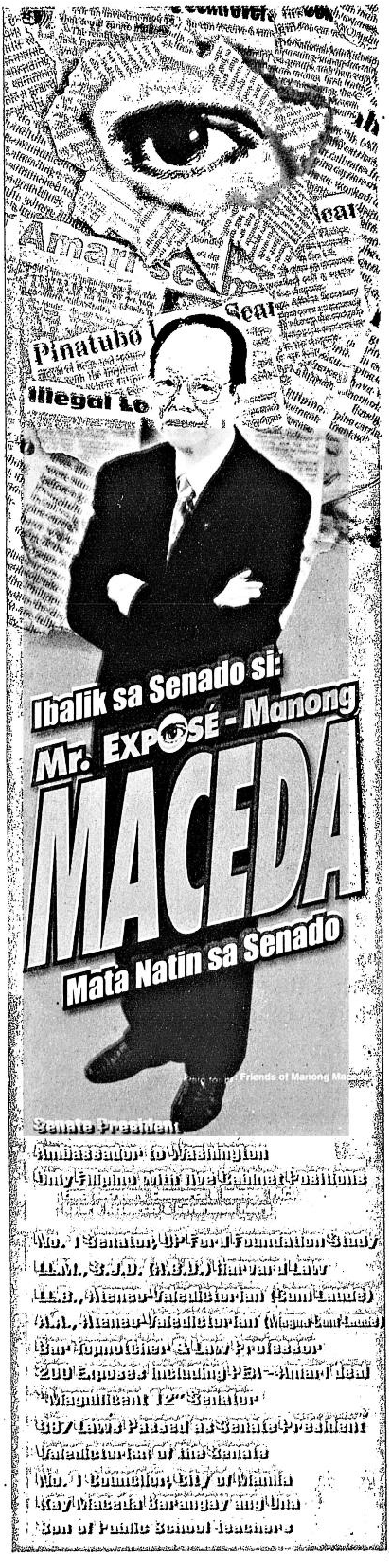
The campaign dubbed "Resistensya," or Resist Encompassing Information Fraud and Propaganda Terrorism in the May Polls, expressed deep commitment for the conduct of an honest, peaceful and orderly elections.

Biyaheng Gloria national spokesperson Robert Bastillo, however, in a press statement downplayed speculations of harassment and cheating as perceived by the opposition camp.

"We will never promote cheating coming both from the opposition and administration camps," he said in his statement.

Resistensya was launched following a covenant signing called Resist, which was entered into between two presidential aspirants—former education secretary Raul Roco and Bro. Eddie Villanueva—and Rep. Satur Ocampo of the Bayan Muna party-list.

Bastillo said "there is no cause to cheat or commit any form of terrorism."



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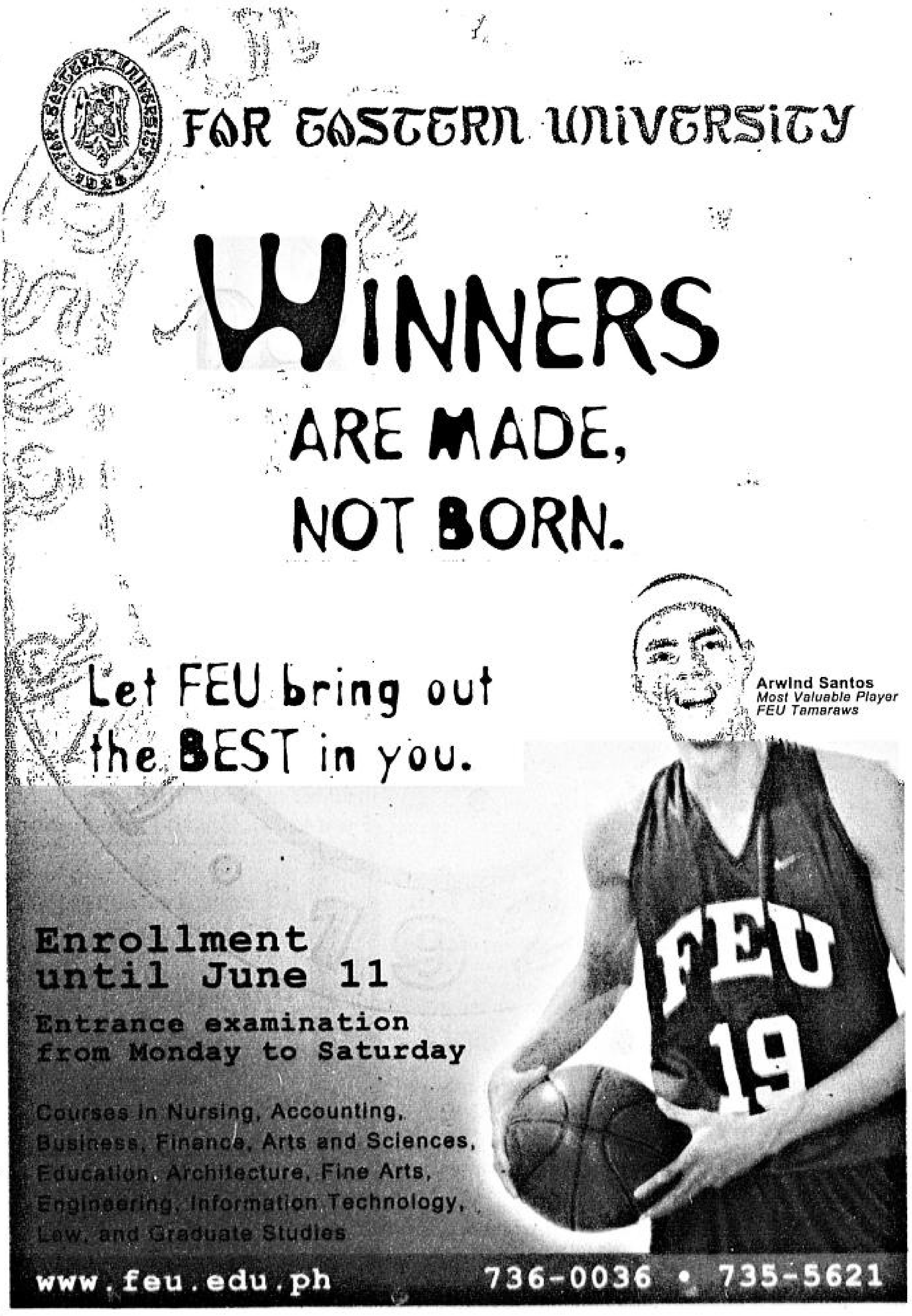

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Muslim politicians: Then and now

By Nash B. Maulana
Maguindanao

AMONG Muslims, credible elections have basis in the teachings of the Koran, falling within in the range of the shariah (law) principle of the "*shura*," meaning consultation or the process involved in it.

For instance, the shariffs of Turkey gave the suffrage right to women ahead of many Western states because they wield much influence in family life. Thus, women constitute an important element of the *ashura*.

The same ancient shariff clan of the Arabian Peninsula, tracing its roots to as far back as Abraham, planted the seeds of Sulu and Maguindanao sultanates through centuries of trade ties and its descendants' introduction of Islam to the southern regions.

The patriarchal sultanate government flourished in succession of heirs-apparent to the throne (whose qualifications have been set and fixed by the process of the *shura*). And so are the traditional requirements for members of his council, judiciary and advisors' core, pre-dating and indeed outliving centuries of futile Spanish attempts at colonization.

Datus and sultans

The Maguindanao traditional leadership also went through cycles of political squabbles and resolutions to contain American strategies in dealing with the datus and sultans (through them, divide-and-rule tactics were effectively put in place).

One such formula is for the sultans to relinquish more powers (grant autonomous functions) to the datus. Toward the 20th century, the move eventually gave village leaders liberty to choose between sticking it out with the sultanate and shifting to the rising Western civil governance.

Following the 1898 Treaty of Paris, the US colonial administration set up the Western government structure (initially coexisting with the dispensations of Maguindanao's Sultan Muhammad Hijaban Mastura Kudarat III, and Sultan Jamalul Kiram I of Sulu), and even appointed municipal presidents and governors in the Cotabato region, among them, Governors Dionisio Gutierrez and Pablo Cui. (Few Muslim locals know that only four out of nine Empire Cotabato provincial governors were Muslims.)

Traditional leaders

Waves of political development paved the way for compromise resolutions of both the traditional leadership and the American-Filipino civil administration. Political *quid pro quo* brought reconciliatory packages to small groups of native leaders to keep pocket rebellions at bay.

Such bargains have cast their long shadows on today's political exercises: The traditional leadership has kept and is effectively keeping the power; the civil governance has set the rules of the game and kept them through balloting.

> For traditional leaders, throwing their hat into the local political arena depicts social status, financial stability and influence deeply rooted in tradition

For traditional leaders, throwing their hat to the local political arena depict wit, social status, financial stability, and influence deeply rooted in tradition—whichever comes first.

The American-Filipino peace package had the great Maguindanaon-Chinese leader Tan Pi Ang (the prudent son of a princess from the Kabuntalan sultanate) rising from municipal politics to the national legislature.

Representing Cotabato, his sons, Ugalingan and Gumbay Piang, were also members of the Commonwealth National Assembly and of the First Philippine Congress. His great-grandson, Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Piang Dilangalen, is now running for senator.

Sinsuats, Ampatuans

Their contemporaries in other Muslim provinces were (Sultan) Amil Bangsa of Sulu and Alawia Alonto of Lanao, who also became sultan of Ramain (Lanao del Sur).

In Cotabato, the Sinsuats came next in the roster of traditional leaders rising to political prominence.

Blah Sinsuat was a member of the 1935 Constitutional Convention. His brother Duma Sinsuat was member of the Commonwealth National Assembly and became the first Muslim governor of Empire Cotabato in 1940. Their nephew, Datu Bimbo Sinsuat is the reelectionist vice governor of Maguindanao.

Piang had an equally witty political adviser and municipal council member in Datu Mamasapano Ampatuan, son of Shariff Ampatuan, who along with Anwaruddin Utto and other datus, launched offensives on remaining Spanish forts in the region in 1898.

The datus had their final blow on the Spanish colonial forces in the Lower Cotabato Valley engagements, when the elder Ampatuan killed Spain's Capt. Jose Ma. Villaron. The sword used in Villaron's killing is being kept inside the chest of treasured valuables of the Ampatuan clan under the stewardship of Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal S. Ampatuan Sr., the most politically powerful of the patriarch's grandchildren today.

Matalams

Datu Udtog Matalam Sr. became the third Muslim governor of Cotabato (Before being elected senator in 1946. Salipada Pendatun, Matalam's brother in-law, briefly became post-war governor after Duma Sinsuat).

The post-war Philippine Republic saw the Pendatun-Matalam tandem growing a powerful political fence opposite the Sinsuats. In one of hottest political contests in recent memory, the Sinsuats allied with the Ampatuans, and in 1967, almost succeeded in politically dislodging both men.

But pitted against Matalam (his brother-in-law), and Abdullah Sangki of the Ampatuan group in the 1967 gubernatorial race, Congressman Pendatun had then Board Member Simeon Ampatuan Datumanong for a running mate under the Liberal Party banner. Both Pendatun and Datumanong won, but the former opted to finish his term in Congress.

Last empire governor

And so Datumanong assumed as the fourth and last Muslim governor of Empire Cotabato before it was divided, initially in 1971, and has now become five provinces.

Datumanong had effectively placed a balancing power into then unstable political situation arising from an unexpected clash among political titans of the province.

The two contenders for the Maguindanao governorship in the May 10 elections, incumbent Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr. and Maguindanao Rep. Datu Guimid Matalam, are distant relatives and their old party alliance is enriched by history of close friendship, as well as their common affinity with the Midtimbangs of Talayan, Maguindanao: Governor Ampatuan's son is married to the granddaughter of Datu Midtimbang, whose brother the late Datu Ali was the father in-law of Datu Udtog Matalam, Guimid's father.

By the Midtimbangs, the governor's grandchildren are also grand nieces and nephews of the congressman's half-siblings.

Aside from the calls of local politicians for adherence into peaceful and credible elections, hopes were pinned on the Midtimbangs to be able to play a middle force's role to keep peace for the one-on-one fight between Ampatuan and Matalam, their common in-laws.

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Parouk Hussin: Doctor with a revolutionary past

HUSSIN

By Aquiles Zonio

IN AN ATTEMPT to capture the Muslim votes, President Macapagal-Arroyo drafted Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao into the senatorial slate of her K-4 coalition.

Could a former rural doctor and high-ranking member of the Moro National Liberation Front's Executive Council make it to the Senate?

If previous elections were to be the gauge, it would not be surprising if Hussin ended up among the losers.

Surely, the President would benefit for taking in the ARMM governor, but not Hussin, whose only consolation could be the pride of being included in the slate.

Tausug descent

Born on June 2, 1944 in Jolo, Sulu, Hussin finished his elementary education, with honors, at the Maimbung Elementary School in 1954 and his secondary education, also with honors, at the Sulu High School.

In 1966, he completed his medical course at the University of the East's Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center and a masteral degree in public health at the University of the Philippines.

He passed the board examinations for physicians in 1966, the US Educational Council examinations for foreign medical graduates in 1967, and the Swedish medical licensure tests in 1987.

He married Slavica Spasevski with whom he has four children—Samir, Walid, Adel and Hannan.

Top health officer

Hussin served as a resident physician of the Sulu Hospital from 1967 to 1968, and as municipal health officer of Sulu from 1968 to 1973. He was cited as the country's Most Outstanding Municipal Health Officer.

For a year, he ventured into private practice. He became vice president of the Sulu Doctor's Hospital.

At the height of the MNLF's armed struggle against the government in the '70s, he went to Tripoli, Libya, where he worked as a physician for nine years. In 1986, he moved to Stockholm, Sweden.

MNLF negotiator

In 1974, Hussin served as a member of MNLF panel in its peace talks with the government. He headed the MNLF panel that forged the Tripoli Agreement with the government.

Among his positions in the revolutionary movement were as MNLF roving ambassador, head of its medical department, foreign minister and chair of the MNLF executive committee.

In 1997, or two years after the MNLF signed the peace accord with the government, Hussin was appointed assistant secretary under the Office of the President.

He was hired presidential adviser for Muslim Mindanao concerns from March to December, 2001.

Hussin also occupied various sensitive positions in the government before he was elected ARMM governor in January, 2002.

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OUR AGENDA FOR THE MAY 10, 2004 ELECTIONS

We, the alumni of Don Bosco, shall pass on to our children a progressive Philippines, a nation whose electoral exercise assures our future generations an effective voice in the crafting of their own destiny.

To this end,

We shall use wisely our power to vote so as to invest with public trust only those who effectively work for the uplifting of the youth and the poor. We belong to the Salesian Family of Saint John Bosco, and the betterment of the youth and the poor is always our concern and our mission in the Church and in our society.

We shall initiate and maintain concrete social initiatives so as to ultimately transform the feudal mentality of our electorate into a choice of governance for the common good. As concerned citizens, we cannot expect our neighbor to deliver an "enlightened choice" if he wallows in misery and want.

We shall selflessly invest our professional, and most especially our technical competence, towards the conduct of efficient and credible elections. As Bosconians, we have been uniquely blest. We feel the responsibility to offer our technical competence towards the abetting of fraud, and a quick tabulating of results.

Finally, we shall actively involve ourselves in the various aspects of the election process, but we shall never assume any portion of the political spoils. We are servant-leaders. At the end of this political exercise, we shall focus on sharpening our capabilities for the next elections, rather than grab our share of political favors.

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He made us feel it's a better world

From page A1

the very able all-Filipino Father Pio Symphony Orchestra through the two-hour concert.

Bocelli swayed ever so slightly every now and then, and motioned the beat with his right hand at his side whenever it was delightful soprano Maria Luigia Borsi's turn to sing.

Otherwise, he hardly moved. He had none of the grandiose gestures that operatic superstars make on stage. All his energy was concentrated on the vocals.

Bocelli started off with Rodrigo's "Aranjuez," followed by "Panis Angelicus," but didn't warm up until Schubert's "Ave Maria." By the time he and Borsi ended the first half with "O soave fanciulla" from "La Boheme," the audience was on its feet in a rousing ovation.

The second half picked up with guaranteed crowd-pleasers, and it was obvious Bocelli was in top shape, beginning with "Mattinata" and "Santa Lucia Luntana" up to his heart-trembling encore "Sogno."

Borsi

Also handpicked by Bocelli for the Asian tour, soprano Borsi held her own with her beauty, her voice and her emotions, especially enthralling in her first solo, Puccini's "O Mio Babbino Caro" and convincing in her duets with Bocelli, both the "La Boheme" piece and the Brindisi duet from "La Traviata."

Given that all kinds of people packed the coliseum to the bleachers, there surely would have been a stampede had Bocelli and company left the stage without rendering the chart-busters "The Prayer" and "Time to Say Goodbye," duets he had recorded with Celine Dion and Sarah Brightman, respectively.

While the audience might have expected Bocelli to do a duet of "The Prayer" with Borsi, as he did with the hysterical Dion, his solo performance did not disappoint. And where, in the recording, Brightman took the lead in "Time to Say Goodbye," Borsi took the backseat to Bocelli Friday night.

Starry night

Technical requirements for classical concerts are always stringent but there was nary a snag during the performance. The stage was transformed into a starry-night setting with Italian columns and crystal chandeliers.

The all-Filipino orchestra, which had been rehearsing for two months under Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas' auspices, did the country proud and deserved every inch they occupied onstage.

The wide age range of Bocelli's fans (they reportedly don't buy just one CD, they tend to buy the series) was evident. There were more young Filipinos that night than you'd usually expect at a classical concert like this one.

Considering that it was a Friday night when the young would usually hang out with DJs and their Ibiza type of music, the concert was definitely a generation-bridger.

VIP crowd

The 20-minute intermission gave the mostly VIP orchestra crowd time to greet one another.

Political candidates Raul Roco, Noli de Castro, Mar Roxas, Ernesto Maceda, Sonny Belmonte, among others, took time off from the campaign trail to take in a bit of culture.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was unable to attend, but Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. was there. Speaker Jose de Venecia showed up with wife Gina.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos was noticeably absent. Imelda Marcos was notably present.

The diplomats were welcomed by Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti. Business was represented by the younger generation, among them, Nedy Tantoco, Julio Aboitiz, Tessie Sy-Coson, Hans Sy and Ben Chan.

None of the Zobels showed up.

Also spotted were performer Gary Valenciano with wife Angeli, newly appointed Unesco commissioner Cesar Montano with wife Sunshine Cruz, and actress Maricel Soriano.

The Lopezes—Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III, Gina and Ernie—and their ABS-CBN executives came in full force. The network had teamed up with Arenas and her Father Pio Lend A Hand Foundation in bringing the Italian tenor to the country.

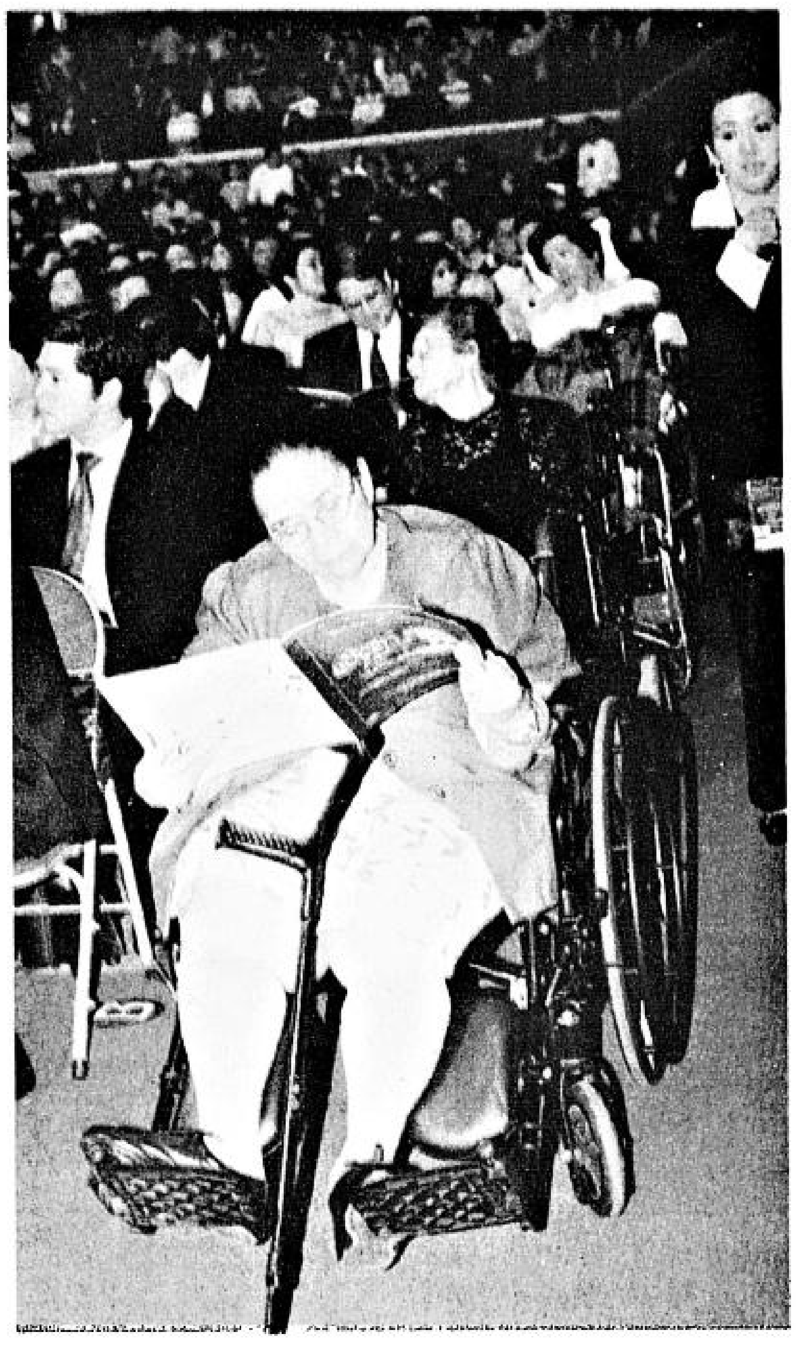
The lucky top 85 Platinum subscribers who were rewarded by Globe with P25,000 seats were also treated to cocktails catered by Cibo, along with other Platinum subscribers who were entitled to a 25-percent discount on Bocelli tickets.

Italian feast

In keeping with the Italian theme, Margarita Fores served Pate with Mostarda di Frutta on Cassetta Square, Palline di Formaggio, Fiori di Zucca Fritti with garlic anchovy, Farfalle with summer vegetable rattatouilla, baby pennette with porcini mushrooms and gorgonzola and Maiale tonnato with crisp capers.

Standing to benefit from the proceeds of the one-night concert are the Bantay Bata 163, Mt. Pinatubo Hidden Temple Shrine Foundation, Philippine National Red Cross, Opthalmological Foundation of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila High School '79 Foundation.

"It is a privilege to sing for people in need," Bocelli had said at the press conference.



TENOR Andrea Bocelli sings with handpicked soprano Maria Luigia Borsi, with conductor Marcello Rota on his left (top left); some of the well-heeled who trooped to the Araneta Coliseum (above); Borsi, Bocelli and Rota with socialite and philanthropist Baby Arenas who organized the concert (left).

PHOTOS BY MANDY NAVASERO

Candidates' woe . . .

From page A1

assistance top the wish list of the "Gimme" voters, with some presenting two-year-old prescriptions for antibiotics.

The other requests are for donations for uniforms and trophies for basketball leagues, *lechon* and beer for fiesta celebrations, and even tuition for the coming school year.

There are some who come right out and demand money in exchange for "helping" the candidate.

Perfecto Yasay Jr., who is running for senator under Raul Roco's Alyansa ng Pag-asa, said one group asked him for P2.5 million to put up his posters across the country.

"They start out by saying that they will do it for free, so I give them my posters," Yasay said. "They do put the posters up but the next day, they ask for money. Some even ask for an allowance of P5,000 a day to volunteer their services."

Wilson Chan, running for mayor of Tacloban City, said a man came up to say there were 17 members in his family who would vote for him.

Here's the catch: Chan has to first pay off the balance on the man's house and lot in the city.

Parties

Berna Romulo-Puyat, a neophyte politician running for the congressional seat in the first district of Quezon City, said one voter invited her to a birthday party.

Since she was coming to the party, anyway, could she bring a birthday cake, the voter asked.

By the end of the conversation, she said, the voter had put in an additional request for pancit and balloons.

Puyat, a grandniece of the late statesman Carlos P. Romulo, said she was also invited to a wake.

It turned out that the body was already in an advanced stage of decomposition because the wake had been extended for so long in the family's desire to raise more *abuloy* (donations) from politicians.

Churches

Teodoro B. Baguilat Jr., who is seeking reelection as governor of Ifugao, spoke of a similar experience.

He said it was during elections that politicians like him get swamped with requests for donations to put up churches.

"I have been asked for donations for chapels for Protestants, Catholics and some sects. They ask me to help fix the roof or build a new wall," Baguilat said.

Yasay said these practices make it virtually impossible for candidates with the necessary qualifications but no money to win elections.

The solicitation letters are what are draining candidates' resources, Baguilat said.

And that's on top of the food that they have to serve all day and all night at their campaign headquarters.

"There are people who would go to the headquarters every day and stay all day to eat," Baguilat said. "I don't know what they do there. Then some would ask for bus fare to go home. Then they're back again the next day."

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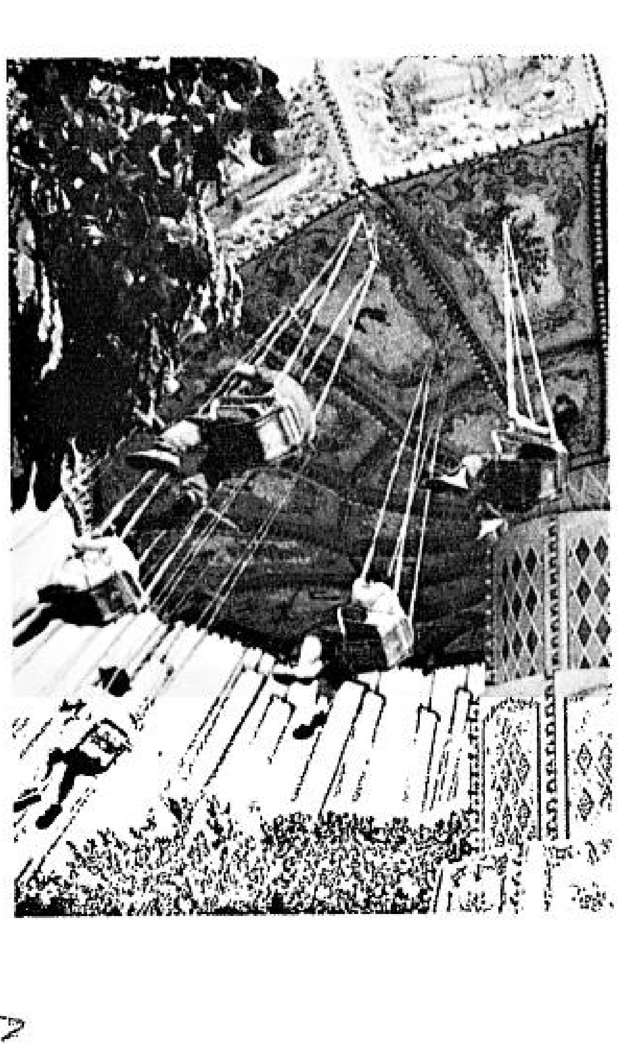

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Fresnedi quizzed for graft

By Armand N. Nocum

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has found "sufficient" basis to proceed with the plunder and graft charges filed against Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi and asked the mayor to answer the charges within 10 days.

In two separate orders, copies of which were furnished to Sandiganbayan reporters this week, the Ombudsman asked Fresnedi to submit a counter-affidavit "within an inextendible period" of 10 days from receipt of the order.

Complaint sufficient

Ombudsman Director Aleu Amante, who issued the order late last month, declared that there is "enough basis to proceed" with the case.

"The complaint is sufficient in form and substance and supported by evidence," Amante said, adding that the Ombudsman will not entertain any motion to dismiss or bill of particulars from the mayor.

The criminal and administrative charges, docketed as Case Nos. C-A-04-0174-D and C-C-04-0168-D, were filed by former Muntinlupa Councilor Rafael Arciaga.

On March 24, Arciaga filed cases of plunder and malversation of P2.04 billion in public funds against Fresnedi and other Muntinlupa officials.

Fund diversion

According to Arciaga, Fresnedi allegedly "illegally diverted" P484 million of the P759.5 million of the Special Education Fund allocated for the construction of school buildings and the purchase of books.

He also took Fresnedi to task for allegedly failing to have a complete inventory of the city government's properties, plant and equipment amounting to some P1.38 billion in 2002, contrary to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Fresnedi, but he was unavailable for comment.

Number of voters in Pasig doubted

By Luige del Puerto

THE NATIONAL Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) has also expressed doubts about the dramatic increase in the number of voters in the city.

After meeting with representatives of the country's major parties on Friday, Namfrel released data that tended to corroborate "statistical improbabilities" in the rise in the city's number of voters as raised by Pasig congressional candidate Dodot Jaworski.

Three doubted

Namfrel compared statistics from the National Statistics Office against the voters' book and saw three city's way above average rise in new voters.

Las Piñas recorded a rise of 45.37 percent, Taguig, 39.9 percent, and Pasig, 38.26 percent.

Of particular concern is Pasig, where the ratio of voters to population is up to 80 for every 100 residents.

"While the ratio of voters to population is a low of 45 to a high of 55 percent in the NCR, in Pasig, it is 80 percent," Namfrel said.

Pasig has 403,683 registered voters, while its population, based on the 2000 census, is only 505,058. The NSO projected the city's population to have grown to 541,674 in 2003.

Dirty list

This developed as the city's election officer, lawyer Romeo Alcazar, admitted that the city's voters' list was far from being clean.

"We never had the time to clean the voters' list," he said over the phone this week, adding that it was possible dead persons and those who failed to vote in the two previous elections were still in the list.

"After the 2001 elections, the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal sequestered the book of voters. We only got it back last March. By then, there was no more time to clean it," he explained.

The House took custody of the voters' book after Noel Carino called for a recount, claiming he won the congressional race against Rep. Henry Lanot in 2001.

STREET dancers welcome tourists and guests to Antipolo City's Sumakah Festival, which celebrated its second year yesterday. Officials came up with the festival to showcase Antipolo's delicacies and usher in the pilgrimage season to the shrine of Our Lady of Good Voyage. JOAN BONDOC

Antipolo takes time out for native goodies

By Charlene Tordesillas

ANTIPOLO CITY took a break yesterday from the heat of summer and the election campaign to celebrate the Sumakah Festival, a monthlong festivity aimed at promoting the city's delicacies and pilgrimage season.

Sumakah stands for *suman*, *mangga*, *kasoy* and *hamaka*.

Politics is out

"*Ngayon ay inalis na namin ang politika. Nandito kami para magpasalamat sa ating Panginoon*," said Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan. "*Ang Sumakah Festival ay para sa lahat.*"

Starting with a penitential walk or *alay lakad* from Quiapo to Antipolo at dawn Saturday, the festival took on life with a parade of elementary and high school students dressed in colorful garb, donning headdresses with *suman*, *mangga* or *kasoy* centerpieces.

The parade started at the Ynares Center and ended at the Antipolo Church's parking lot, where a makeshift stage was erected for the morning's program.

The students danced their hearts out and gamely performed for a chance to win prizes up for grabs at the end of the program.

Ubiquitous vendors surrounded the city plaza, selling *suman*, *kasoy* and *mangga*. Other items on sale included *pili*, *pastillas*, *kalamay* and *bandi*.

Vendors also displayed jewelry, hats, fans, *lechon* and clothes for the Sto. Nino.

Elsa Suarez, 47, of Barangay San Jose, said one could easily tell if a mango comes from the city.

Sweet smelling

"It's in the smell," she said. "*Mabangong-mabango at matamis na matamis ang mangga ng Antipolo.*"

Vendors usually look forward to May, when business is good. During the month, pilgrims and tourists flock to the city. Fiesta celebrations throughout the country also start in May.

Liway Paralejas, 39, of Barangay San Isidro, said she could earn up to P500 a day in May, compared to P200 on regular days.

"It's enough to send kids to school," she said, adding that her eldest child is already in college.

The festival ushers in thousands of devotees who pay their respects to Antipolo's Our Lady of Good Voyage. They bring jobs and extra income to residents.

City officials envision the city to be the country's "pilgrimage city."

"*Sa buong bansa, ito ang pinupuntahan lamang nang palakad, gaya ng Mecca sa Muslim. Inaasahan na Antipolo naman ang maging Mecca sa buong Pilipinas*," he said.

Challenger says people fed up with Binay

By Margaux Ortiz

"I will win because the people love me."

Thus declared Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats candidate Oscar Ibay, saying the residents of Makati City are tired of incumbent Mayor Jejomar Binay's administration.

"(Binay) has drowned himself in power for 18 years," Ibay said. "It's about time that we change the situation."

Despite Binay's claims that he has improved the delivery of services in the city, he has actually forgotten about the people, Ibay stressed.

IBAY

Ibay said that residents of Makati have to pay for their own medicine and medical equipment despite the local government's yellow card program.

"Ospital ng Makati has no equipment, so people have to pay for their medical expenses in different clinics," Ibay said.

He also said that the city government had no housing program, which he vowed to prioritize if elected mayor.

"I'm assuring the people that if they give me a chance to serve them for three years, I would not have to campaign in the next elections anymore," Ibay said.

When asked about his strategy in beating Binay, Ibay said that as a three-term councilor, he consistently topped the polls in Makati's 1st district, which he considered his bailiwick.

He said that since January 2003, he had been going around 2nd district asking for the people's support and convincing them that he could serve them better than Binay.

Ibay noted that he still topped the polls in 2001 despite having failed to campaign because of a heart bypass.

He won 21,000 votes ahead of Binay's son, Councilor Jejomar Erwin.

"*Akala nila mabigat si Binay* (They think Binay is unbeatable)," Ibay confidently said. "They will be surprised by the results of the May elections."

Meeting of candidates frustrates organizers

By Edson Tandoc Jr.
and Cyril Bonabente

THE MEETING of candidates in Valenzuela City Friday night was meant to inform voters of their platforms.

However, the Candidates' Forum organized by the Valenzuela City Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting ended up as a cheering competition among their supporters.

Supporters ignored the more than 20 signs that said, "*Tahimik Po* (Silence Please)."

Cheers and jeers

Most of the time, audience partial to their candidates became rowdy, cheering for their candidates and booing their rivals.

The candidates for congressman, mayor, vice mayor and councilor were given time to present their platforms during the forum that began an hour late from the 7 p.m. schedule.

But while the forum was aimed at "educating the voters," most of those in attendance were members of the different political camps that the politicians brought to the site.

Ang that did not sit well with Valenzuela PPCRV chair Fr. Rod Samson.

Political supporters

About 75 percent of the nearly 1,000 people who crowded the church were party supporters, wearing campaign shirts, some standing on top of chairs inside the church to dance while cheering and holding posters of their candidates.

The remaining 25 percent were unaligned residents and church volunteers who tried but failed to keep the crowd quiet.

Among the politicians who came were mayoralty candidate Rita Carlos, whose husband Bobbit, a three-termer mayor, is running for congressman; Magi Gunigundo, who is running for mayor; Romy Bularan (congressman); Sherwin Gatchalian (mayor) and his younger brother, Rex, who is running for Congress.

City debt

While Carlos promised to continue the projects her husband had started, Gunigundo criticized the P275 million debt of the incumbent administration and Gatchalian said he would surpass the achievements done in Marikina City.

The audience were given sheets of paper for their questions. But the questions were screened and only three questions for the candidates for the top three posts were asked.

The candidates abided by the local PPCRV ban on personal attacks, but some tried to outwit one another.

Peace and order

After Gunigundo and Gatchalian said more local government funds needed to be channeled to the police to solve the peace and order problem in the city, Carlos said the funds should not only come from the local government but also from the city's congressmen as well.

On contractualization of workers, Bobbit Carlos said working against it would be one of his priority projects. Bularan said he would help make a law prohibiting contractualization.

Power and perpetuity in Manila

(First of two parts)

By Tarra Quismundo

IN MANILA, the race for the legislature seems to mean either of two things: continuity of power or perpetuity of family.

May 10 would see incumbents battling it out against newbies in the congressional post, with surnames that have been in the city's political scene for decades.

For instance, District 3 (Sta. Cruz and Binondo) is being contested by incumbent Harry Angping and third term Councilor Miles Roces, of the publishing clan and political family, who is the son-in-law of incumbent Manila Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr.

"I am banking on the track record of my family," Roces told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Even before marrying into the Atienza clan through the mayor's daughter Maile, Roces has had politics in his blood.

His grandfather, Joaquin, was Manila representative for five consecutive terms, from 1954 until martial law was declared by then President Ferdinand Marcos in 1972.

"Ever since I was young, I have always wanted to take the place of my grandfather," said Roces, who first entered politics in 1995.

Roces, a University of the Philippines Social Science graduate, is in Atienza's Liberal Party ticket.

He said that while his rivals made his connection with the Atienzas an issue, his own family has been in public service for a long time.

His rival, incumbent Harry Angping, sees it differently.

"This is a battle between performance and dynasty. He is hanging on the support of his father in law. It's obvious that pressure is there," said Angping, chair of Manila's Nationalist People's Coalition allied with opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.

Performance for Angping, the first Manila representative with Chinese blood, was the passage of an act regulating tobacco advertisements, and limiting smoking areas in public places.

As chair of the House Committee on Trade and Industry, Angping also was the primary author of a legislation that sought to penalize producers and manufacturers of fake video compact discs to protect the local industry.

Angping said he would seize a re-election to build daycare centers and a science and technology facility in his district.

Confident to clinch a third win, Angping saw Roces' candidacy as part of Atienza's "greed to control Manila," a third at least.

The two other thirds are Atienza's re-election bid, and the candidacy of his son Kim, also for Congress.

(Continued tomorrow)

Caloocan police HQ attacked

DESPITE claiming to be on high alert for Labor Day celebrations, the police in Caloocan City were caught flat-footed when three men on motorcycles peppered their headquarters with bullets yesterday morning.

The suspects attacked the police headquarters on Samson Road at about 6 a.m. and were able to flee.

The incident was confirmed by some police officers.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Supt. Benjardi Mantele for comment but was told that he was out of the office.

In a phone interview, Northern Police District director Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr. said he had not received any report on the incident but vowed to look into the matter. *Tina Santos*

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SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBDL Championship; 8:30 a.m. (r-7 p.m.); Solar Sports—The D league takes the spotlight.
BOXING: Pacquiao vs Marquez Preview; 12 noon; RPN 9—Get a sneak preview of the much-awaited bout between Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel "Dinamita" Marquez.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Overall Individual standings After Stage 16

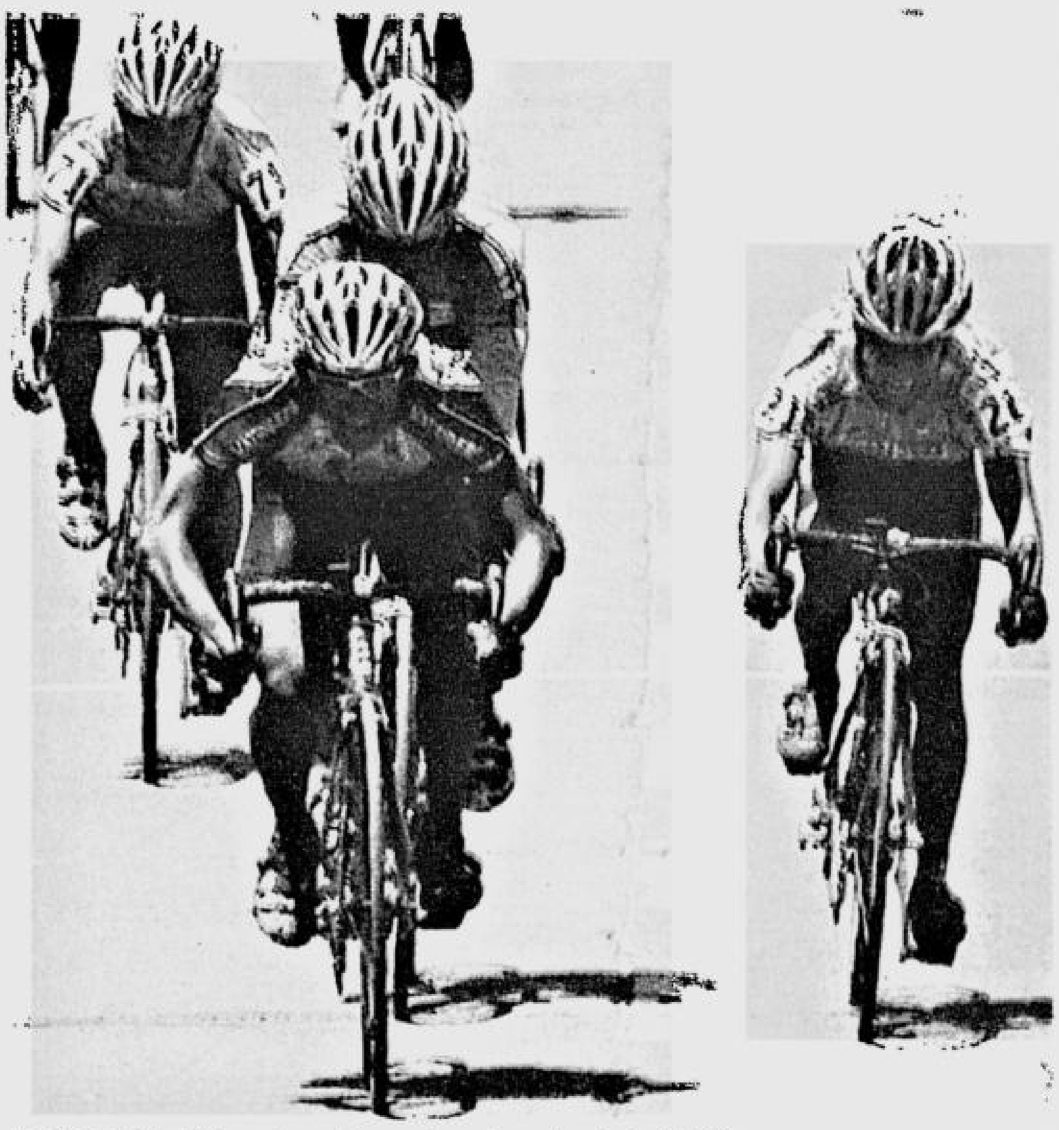
1. R. Tanguilig (PLDT)	68:40:42 hrs.
2. L. Reynante (Postmen)	4:51 mins. behind
3. A. Primero (Dole)	6:22 mins. behind
4. J. Calderon (Beer na Beer)	8:19 mins. behind
5. L. Abiano (Mail and More)	8:45 mins. behind
6. R. Gorantes (Metro Drug)	10:11 mins. behind
7. E. Domingo (Postmen)	13:19 mins. behind
8. B. Ravina (VAT Riders)	14:39 mins. behind
9. S. Barnachea (Mail & More)	16:20 mins. behind
10. V. Espiritu (Beer na Beer)	18:39 mins. behind

STUDIO 23

TOUR PILIPINAS

Tanguilig wraps it up

By Marc Anthony Reyes



ESTAYO of Vat Riders shows the way home in yesterday's 16th Stage. ROMY HOMILLADA

TARLAC CITY—It's all over. There's no doubt about it.

An ecstatic Rhyan Tanguilig declared these happy words yesterday after skillfully keeping the yellow jersey in the penultimate stage of the Air21 Tour Pilipinas overall victory here.

Tanguilig wisely stuck with his closest challengers in the main pack every step of the way and finished the stage with his overall lead of four minutes, 51 seconds over Lloyd Reynante still intact going into today's anti-climactic 17th and last stage around Manila.

"*Wala nang duda, tapos na ang laban* (There's no doubt about it, the race is over," said Tanguilig, smiling widely and exchanging high fives with the crowd that greeted him at the finish line. He finished fourth overall last year.

The 25-year-old PLDT skipper from Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya is expected to just coast along in the 91-km criterium en route to the P200,000 individual championship, which he will receive from no less than President Macapagal Arroyo.

Meanwhile, the Postmen, riding on the strong performances of Enrique Domingo, Lloyd Reynante and Joseph Millanes, formally bagged the P1 million team championship. They totaled 205 hours, 49 minutes and 59 seconds after 16 stages to defeat Beer na Beer by 28 minutes and 38 seconds. Dole placed third, more than 31 minutes behind.

Domingo, who wore the yellow jersey for five straight days and, surprisingly, took it again after the first of the two Baguio stages, said he has no regrets for losing his grip of the overall leadership.

After all, he stands to win no less than P200,000 from his share of the team prize, his two stage wins, day-to-day yellow jersey ownership and the Sprint title worth P50,000.

But as the Tour looked forward to a grand finish, the entourage was shaken by news that the P300,000 worth Giant bike of two-time champion Renato Dolosa was stolen early yesterday morning. The bike with a carbon-fiber alloy frame was bought from his winnings in the 1992 and 1995 Tours.

It was stolen at about 3 a.m., according to police, which also reported the loss of a kilometer reader worth P18,000 belonging to another former Tour champ Victor Espiritu. Michael Ramos also reported the loss of his cell phone and P7,000 cash.

The riders were billeted at the Starwood Hotel but the bikes were just deposited at the function room in the ground level. Dolosa, who unabashedly shed tears upon learning of the incident, still opted to start in the penultimate stage using a Colnago bike borrowed from race director Art Cayabyab worth P500,000.

Nilo Estayo of Vat Riders, who finished last in the third stage in Lucena City, snared the stage victory in a mass finish yesterday.

Estayo bucked bumps and bruises after figuring in a spill in the last 50 km caused by unpainted highway humps, beating 1998 champion Warren Davadilla of Purefoods and Marsman's Alfie Catalan in a mad dash to the finish line.

But, clearly, the day belonged to Tanguilig, who held the yellow jersey in the 12th and 13th stages but yielded it briefly to Domingo in the 14th lap. He regained it Friday after winning the Baguio-to-Baguio stage, the signature lap of the Tour sponsored by Leo Magaway's Elixir Bikeshop, Summit, Red Bull, Gatorade, Pharex, Isuzu and Lactovitale.

"I just played safe and stayed with the (main) group. Tomorrow I will just maintain my lead and go with the flow," said Tanguilig in Filipino.

The strange thing was, nobody challenged Tanguilig's quest for glory as the big group almost didn't break up for the duration of the 167-km 16th stage from Baguio City.

Not even close pursuers and serious title contenders like Reynante, Dole's Albert Primero or Beer na Beer's Joel Calderon attempted to break away from the time they descended via Marcos Highway.

Today's final stage will begin at 1 p.m., while the awarding ceremony will be at 3 p.m. with Ms Macapagal and Asian cycling chief Dato Seri Darshan Singh gracing the closing rites.

STAGE 16 RESULTS

INDIVIDUAL

1. Estayo, N. (Vat Riders) 4:05:31; 2. Davadilla, W. (Purefoods) 3. Catalan, A. (Marsman Drysdale) 4. Hualda, R. (Purefoods) 5. Millanes, J. (Postmen) 6. Espiritu, V. (Beer na Beer) 7. Villanueva, O. (Dole) 8. Casaljay, R.(Beer na Beer) 9. Jazul, C. (Beer na Beer) 10. Baluyot, V. (Samsung) 11. Ricafort, J. (Purefoods) 12. Feliciano, E. (Patrol 117) 13. Alagano, F. (Dole) 14. Primero, A. (Dole) 15. Reynante, L. (Postmen) same time

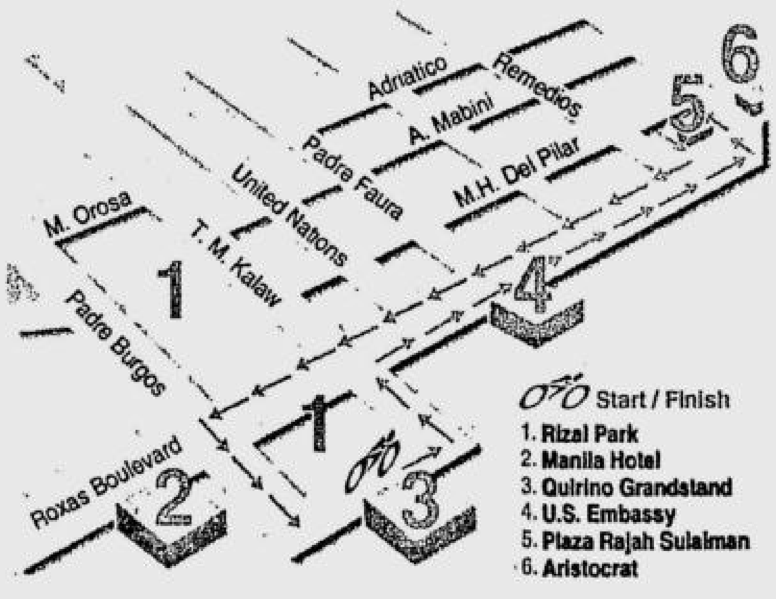
OVERALL STANDINGS

11. Feliciano, E. (Patrol 117) 20:36
12. Ganigan, D. (Vat Riders) 22:21
13. Martinez, T. (Beer na Beer) 26:09
14. Dolosa, R. (Metro Drug) 29:21
15. Millanes, J. (Postmen) 29:28
16. Navarro, R. (Tanduay Rhum Riders) 31:47
17. Davadilla, W. (Purefoods) 39:21
18. Quinones, E. (Purefoods) 40:50
19. Quirimit, A. (Tanduay Rhum Riders) 54:50
20. Marcelo, A. (Mail and More) 56:44

TEAM STANDINGS

1. Postmen 205 hrs. 49 mins. 59.920 secs
2. Beer na Beer 28:38.477 behind
3. Dole 31:25.671 behind
4. Mail and More 58:00.461 behind
5. Vat Riders 1:21:34.771 behind
6. Tanduay Rhum Riders 1:25:47.802 behind
7. Metro Drug 1:26:57.332 behind
8. Purefoods 1:47:48.296 behind
9. Samsung 2:08:34.947 behind
10. PLDT 2:21:14.130 behind
11. Marsman Drysdale 2:47:59.628 behind
12. Patrol 117 3:53:36.601 behind

Manila Criterium



Start / Finish
1. Rizal Park
2. Manila Hotel
3. Quirino Grandstand
4. U.S. Embassy
5. Plaza Rajah Sulaiman
6. Aristocrat

Bulacan chessers take on Tagaytay

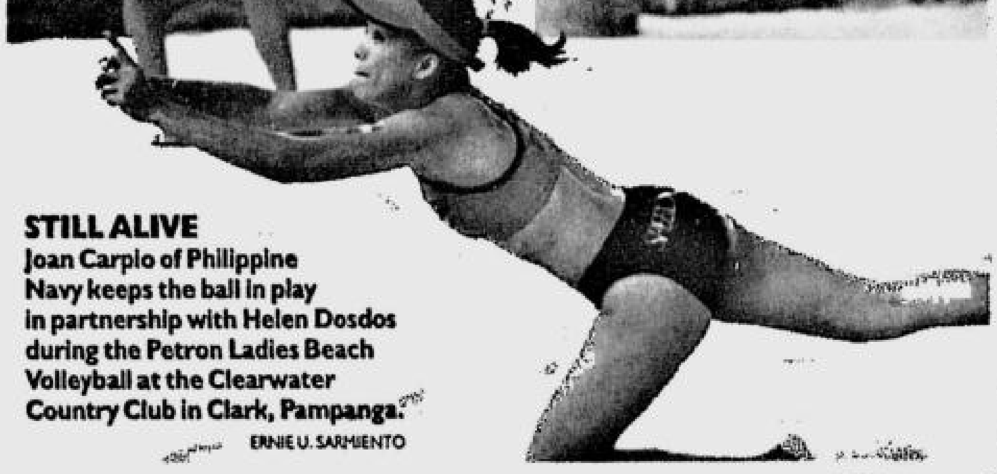
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, Palawan—Joey Antonio whipped Eugene Torre in a clash between the country's top grandmasters yesterday to power Tagaytay City-Cavite into the finals against Bulacan in the 2004 National Inter-Provincial chess team championship here.

Antonio's 34-move win in a King's Indian Defense sparked Tagaytay's 2.5-1.5 triumph over Torre's Bataan team in the semifinals.

Led by GM-candidate Mark Paragua, Bulacan A downed Bulacan B, 2.5-1.5, in the other semifinal with Noel dela Cruz securing the full point on board 4 with a 49-move victory over Jose Aquino in a Ruy Lopez.

Paragua drew with NM Erwin Carag.

Marlon Bernardino

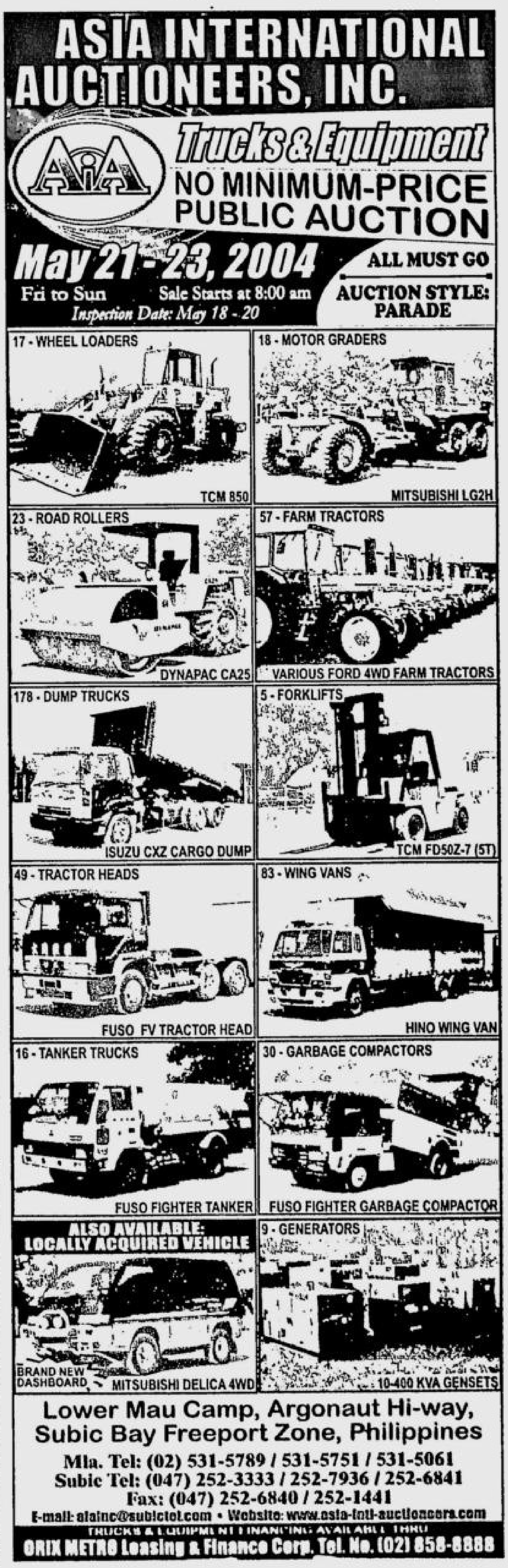


STILL ALIVE
Joan Carpio of Philippine Navy keeps the ball in play in partnership with Helen Dosdos during the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball at the Clearwater Country Club in Clark, Pampanga.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Pacquiao refuses to divulge 'sure-win' plot vs Marquez** /A26

- **Garnett, Wolves gain 2nd round; Heat win** /A27



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Pacquiao refuses to divulge 'sure-win' plot vs Marquez

By Recah Trinidad

LOS Angeles, California—Manny Pacquiao swore he has perfected a formula to wrest the twin world boxing crowns of Juan Manuel Marquez but cautiously explained yesterday that he was not at liberty to divulge it.

After another fiery sparring session, he pulled up his sweaty shirt to show a steel-hard belly then explained the weapon is much better than the one used in his monumental conquest of Mexican legend Marco Antonio Barrera last November.

Just like in the clash against Barrera, Pacquiao said the formula will have to remain a secret until fight time.

"Sorry, but *gaya sa laban kay* Barrera, *di puwedeng sabihin*," Pacquiao explained after another hard workout at the busy Wild Card Boxing gym where he was again crowded by fans whose t-shirts and caps he autographed.

Pacquiao punished and dominated one welterweight to round up power, then toyed with a smaller fighter whom he used to improve his already astounding speed.

After having sparred a total of 132 rounds, he was scheduled to jog and do gym work Saturday and Sunday, spar four final rounds Monday, then head off with his handlers for the Las Vegas championship site.

He had sparred a total of 103 rounds in the bout against Barrera.

PACQUIAO (right) confers with Roach during yesterday's press conference in Los Angeles. PHOTO COURTESY OF FIGHTWORLD

"*Basta duon na lang namin ilalabas lahat sa laban* (You'll see it all during the fight)," Pacquiao said of the plot he was supposed to have perfected with trainer-of-the year Freddie Roach.

Pacquiao assured that he feels a whole lot stronger than when he beat Barrera.

Roach nodded in agreement but readily explained Pacquiao had to be at his peak because Marquez promises to be a lot tougher than Barrera.

"I'm not sure this one will be as easy as that one against Barrera," Roach confided to the INQUIRER.

Roach described Marquez as a brilliant counter-puncher.

Pacquiao will have to do it "in and out," said Roach, hinting at the trappings of the strategy he was supposed to have hatched with Pacquiao.

"We emphasize on his advantage in speed, Manny won't be caught staying long in front, he must walk out fast" Roach explained.

As interest on the championship heightened, there were reports of heavy betting among Filipino and Mexican groups around here, while organizers report brisk ticket sales.

The idea is not to play into Marquez's strength, while Pacquiao emphasizes on his built-in advantage, Roach explained.

"I don't think that Marquez, at 31, can cope with Manny's speed, so we'll push it to the body early," Roach said.

The celebrated trainer also bared he has instructed Pacquiao to be extra careful because Marquez tends to box dirty.

"He's known to use low blows and his elbows," Roach noted.

However, sports journalist Winchel Campos said handlers of Marquez had themselves labeled Pacquiao as a dirty fighter, a dig which the Filipino group found amusing.

What the Mexican group had obviously felt unpalatable was the sensational stoppage scored by Pacquiao when he raged like a relentless California wild fire in unmasking and humiliating the highly rated Barrera last November.

Only after that epic win did Roach agree to bare that he had actually ordered Pacquiao to push Barrera hard with a tidal-wave offensive because the Mexican was incapable of fighting back while retreating.

The way Pacquiao put it, he hinted that they also have a surefire strategy against Marquez.

But it would be entirely different from the one they had used to stop the overrated Barrera, Pacquiao said. He refused to elaborate.

"Just tell them to pray for me, *pasalamatan mo na silang lahat sa mga tulong nila*," Pacquiao requested, sounding certain of victory.

He then fetched his wife at the Vagabond Inn and they joined members of his entourage for a lunch of native dishes down Vine St.

Although he did not have to go through a day of dieting since he started training for Marquez, Pacquiao was only a couple of light pounds over the 126-lb. limit Saturday.

The fight will be held on Saturday, May 8 (May 9, Sunday in Manila) in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Beaming Benny

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

AS the new president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP), you can expect fireworks from Benny Gopez. But they are mostly the kind that should explode in the name of more progress for the NGAP.

To some, Benny is difficult to deal with. To a certain extent, that is true.

Benny is difficult in the sense that he hates circuitous routes. He doesn't have the patience of a rabbi. You don't go direct to the point, he'll cut you like a knife cutting a tomato in two.

"I don't have time for gravy," he says. "I deal mostly on the meat of the matter."

His character often turns off people. But to those who know him that well, he is an angel. In fact, I call him Beaming Benny.

"He could be the most misunderstood person on Earth," says Rod V. Feliciano, the outgoing NGAP president, "but certainly, with Benny, you have the most wonderful person on Earth to do business with. No hanky-panky. All straight business."

You don't tell him what to do. He tells you what to do.

"If I am the head of a project, I take full responsibility," he says. "If it fails, I take all the blame. If it succeeds, the credit goes to all my teammates."

He works by the book. You stray from it, wittingly or unwittingly, he throws the book at you.

A decision has been agreed upon and you question its implementation, execution, he grills you over orange coals.

He never compromises, even if you are a blood brother.

"I am always guided by the rule of the majority," Benny says. "No matter who gets hurt—my brother maybe or even my mother—the rule of the majority is to be obeyed and implemented at all costs."

He governs by looking for problems and finding solutions to them in the quickest possible time.

In meetings that he presides in, his opening remarks would normally be, "We are here to look for problems and then find the appropriate solutions to them. We are not here to engage in useless talk."

Benny does things always in the name of the organization he works for, serves for.

When Benny was president of the nation's volleyball association, he made the association financially strong and transformed the sport from lethargic to dynamic. It was Benny who brought the World Volleyball Grand Prix to our shores when even the idea of staging it here struck fear in the hearts of his fellow volleyball officials back then. Because of Benny, the nation came to know of and fell in love with that Brazilian volleybelle with the angelic face, Leila Barros. Another coup de grace of his was the holding of the World Junior Volleyball in Dagupan City in 2000, in which he worked in tandem with then Mayor Al Fernandez to produce what still is the best world volleyball junior event ever staged.

He can be menacing, but he can be as charming as Helen of Troy's Adonis.

Some say Benny is without diplomacy, a not-so-refined person.

I'd say he's the most diplomatic person this side of the globe—that is, if you know him that well. Do you know that because of his diplomatic mien, he was able to convince the snootiest folk from the golfing world to come to Manila for the World Amateur Team Golf Championships in 1996? That is a singular honor that is his and his alone.

He also happens to be the most refined person you will ever meet-that is, if you want to know him that well.

You don't believe me?

Go, ask Tommy Manotoc, the man who had initially wanted to topple the NGAP leadership but who ended up saying he'd "assist the NGAP and not fight the NGAP."

Very unforgiving when challenged to the hilt, Benny is the most forgiving fellow you'll ever know that you'll even part away with your favorite pet if only to prove he's made you swear of his sincerity to a cause he'd espouse.

It was Benny's desire to end his stint of almost two decades with the NGAP this year. But a self-made man who eats challenges "for breakfast," he was prodded not to.

"The critics of the NGAP are really after you," Rod tells Benny days before the elections. "But as far as I am concerned, their criticisms mean nothing to me. They don't know you at all, period. In fact, my answer to them is, I want you to be the next president of the NGAP."

In the beginning, Benny had balked at the idea. But after some thinking, he relented.

"I cannot turn my back now," Benny says. "I've held various positions in the NGAP, from vice president to many-time secretary general. I guess destiny wants me to serve at the highest level of the association. God help me."

It's a task laden with obstacles. But knowing Benny, he'll hurdle them in his usual inimitable style of leadership by transparency. And by example.

"With Benny, what you see is what you get," says Louie Fernandez, who succeeds Benny as the NGAP secretary general.

Godspeed, Benny.

***

FASTBREAK. Mayo, the first "profit" in my tiny family, turns 7 today. His cousins and friends will go swimming this morning; the adults will make do watching them from the sidelines. While watching the kids do their thing, I'll probably have beer and reminisce on the past, dwelling mostly on the "fond side" of it. What do you want me to do, swim with them on a pool two feet deep?

Macatangay, Ardina post easy victories

LIPA City, Batangas—Terence Macatangay, Dottie Ardina and Cyna Rodriguez cruised to easy victories while Allan Guy and Beverly Mendoza rallied to win their respective divisions in the Samsung Philippine Junior Golf Tour at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club course here.

Ardina, getting ready for a series of stints in the US, picked up her fourth straight win in girls Class D of the circuit also given major backing by International Container Terminal Services Inc. and Philippine Airlines as the official carrier when she tallied an 84-237 to beat Katya dela Cruz by 26 strokes.

Macatangay was just as overpowering in taking his first victory since the Desert Junior Classic in Palm Springs, California last year. He scored a 73 for a 217 total and a 19-shot win over Gerard Arriola (80-236) in boys Class A.

Rodriguez had an 86-247 that was 12 better than the the 259 of Paulina Sotto (86) in girls Class C.

Mendoza took the girls Class B crown after posting an 85-269, beating Francis Bawal by three while Guy (76-235) outdueled Migo Ochoa (80-238) for the boys Class B plum in the event co-sponsored by Gonads and Unilever.

Meanwhile, the Philippine delegation to the Asia-Pacific Junior Championships at the Dami Indah Golf and Country Club in Jakarta, Indonesia leaves today via Philippine Airlines.

Making up the team are Jayvie Agojo, Tonton Asistio, Geleen Handog, Crystal Faith Superal, Wolen Juan Superal, Mikee Camitoc, Adrian Woo, Aaron Dimabuyu, Joaquin Arroyo, Carlos Fabregas, Gino Bunyi, Junro Mamaril, Jordan Mamaril and James Christian Ricohermoso. Gerry Handog, international events chair of the Jungolf Foundation, heads the delegation.

Final scores:

Class A: Boys-Terence Macatangay 73-217, Gerard Arriola 80-236, IG Gutierrez 77-240; Girls-Jennifer Platon 112-338, Margareth Platon 112-341; Class B: Boys-Allan Guy 76-235, Migo Ochoa 80-238, Woo Kang Byung 85-252; Girls-Beverly Mendoza 85-269, Francis Bawal 91-272; Class C: Boys-Reigil Medestomas 82-245, Roco Sumabat 82-261, Chris dela Cruz 87-261; Girls-Cyna Rodriguez 86-247, Paulina Sotto 86-259, Angelika Datingaling 99-292; Class D: Boys-Allan Datingaling 97-283, Julius Quiban 111-334; Girls-Dottie Ardina 84-237, Katya dela Cruz 84-263, Annika Martinez 97-292; Class E: Boys-AR Ramos 63-183, Tonton Arevalo 75-196, Jason Buen 81-224; Girls-Felicia Medalla 90-255, Dana Gonzales 90-263, Ariana Martinez 98-290; Class F: Boys-Rupert Zaragosa 75-216, Kouji Kano 72-220, Polo Reyes 80-238; Girls-Janella Buen 65-203, Abby Arevalo 71-222.

Garnett, Wolves gain 2nd round; Heat win

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota—Kevin Garnett ended seven years of postseason frustration for himself and his Minnesota team Friday, as the Timberwolves reached the second round of the National Basketball Association playoffs for the first time.

Garnett scored 28 points to lead the Timberwolves to a 102-91 victory over the Denver Nuggets to claim the series four-games-to-one.

They advanced to the Western Conference semifinals for the first time in franchise history. They had lost their first seven postseason series, winning just seven of 29 games.

As the best player in franchise history, Garnett took the blame. He was accused of being too unselfish, which tarnished his reputation as a superstar.

After winning game four to grab a commanding 3-1 series lead, the Wolves raced to a 26-point first-half lead and relaxed. The Nuggets battled back and cut the deficit to 72-66 late in the third period.

That's when Garnett got selfish. He closed the quarter with two free throws, then scored eight points in the first four minutes of the final period, taking charge of the game. His tough fadeaway jumper made it 84-70, and Minnesota led by at least nine points thereafter.

In another game, the Miami Heat moved within one game of the second round with an 87-83 victory over New Orleans.

Rookie Dwyane Wade's 3-pointer with 53 seconds left beat the shot clock, snapped a tie and lifted the Heat to an emotional win over the Hornets for a three-games-to-two lead in their Eastern Conference series.

The fourth-seeded Heat overcame another virtuoso performance by Baron Davis and are on the brink of reaching the Eastern Conference semifinals for the first time in four years.

Wade had 21 points, five rebounds and five assists. *AFP*

Kobe unlikely to play

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant acknowledged on Friday that his legal problems will probably prevent him from playing in the Athens Olympics.

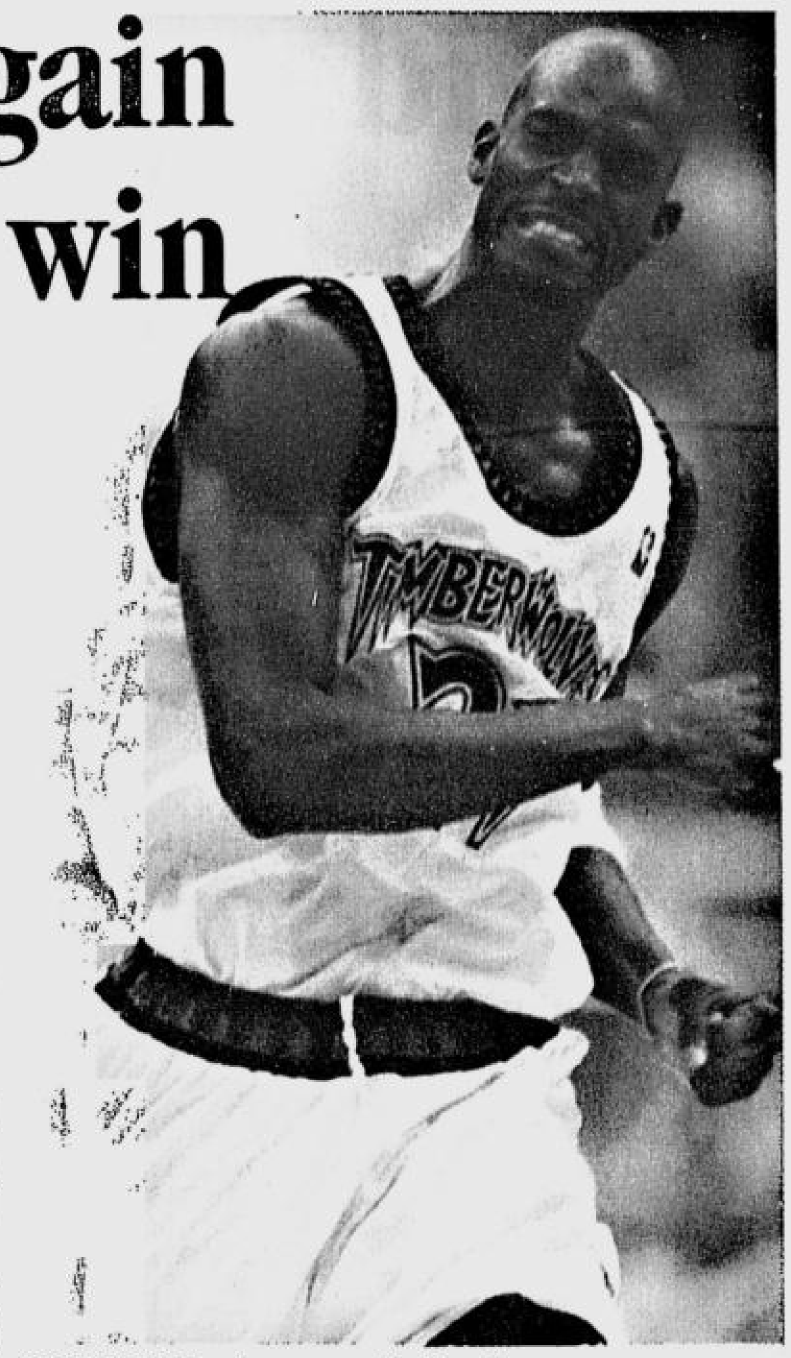
Bryant's agent, Rob Pelinka, released a statement saying the Los Angeles Lakers' star informed USA Basketball it is unlikely he'll be able to compete due to scheduling conflicts concerning his sexual assault charge in Colorado.

But Bryant hopes to keep the door open concerning participation in the Games. *AP*

Former star acquitted

SOMERVILLE, New Jersey—Former NBA star Jayson Williams was acquitted of manslaughter on Friday in the shotgun slaying of a limousine driver at his mansion, but was found guilty of trying to make the 2002 shooting look like a suicide.

Williams was convicted on four of the six lesser charges, related to tampering with evidence and trying to cover up the death of Costas "Gus" Christofi, 55. *AP*



FRUSTRATING postseason over for Garnett AFP

SMB spanks P'foods, ups mark to 12-1

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Ginebra
6:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs FedEx

By Musong Castillo, *Contributor*

SAN Miguel lost its import in the third period but still pulled out a 106-97 decision over a Purefoods squad that suited up a new reinforcement yesterday in the PBA Gran Matador Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Art Long was tossed out after two technical fouls and Tyrone Washington lost his bite in the stretch after barking all night as San Miguel won for the fourth straight time while dealing the Tender Juicy Hotdogs their sixth consecutive defeat.

The Beermen improved their league-leading slate to 12-1, while the Hotdogs are now in the cellar after losing for the 10th time in 13 games.

What started out as a promising duel between the two Americans turned sour in the second period as both were slapped with technicals after a shoving incident.

The scoring was great at first and the dunking was awesome. But when Washington had the floor to himself, there wasn't a sting left in him after trash-talking Long all game.

Washington's only victory last night was getting Long to lose his cool. Other than that, his six-point effort in the final two periods when the most imposing presence on the other end was gone will be easily forgotten, if not recounted with a lot of shame.

Later in the night, Alaska outlasted Shell, 120-114, in double overtime.

The Aces improved to 9-4, while the Turbo Chargers slipped to 5-8.

Scores:

First game:

SMB 106—Hontiveros 19, Long 16, Ildefonso 15, Belasco 15, Pena 15, Mente 9, Singson 8, Racela 7, Gahol 2.

PUREFOODS 97—Washington 23, Patrimonio 17, Castillo 14, Raymundo 11, Evangelista 11, Yap 9, Artadi 8, Johnson 2, Yee 2.

Quarters: 28-all; 54-46; 78-68; 106-97.

Second game:

ALASKA 120—Young 39, Peek 29, Cortez 19, Cablay 13, Allado 11, Thoss 6, Feihl 2, Duat 1, Wilson 0, Padilla 0.

SHELL 114—Watkins 44, Dela Cruz 19, Tubid 17, Alvarez 14, Calagulo 14, Hrtabak 4, Mamaril 2, Bajar 0, Marzan 0, Jackson 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 38-all, 61-67, 102-all, 105-all, 120-114.

Viva tames Letran, secures semifinal seat

By Trina Ibarle

VIVA Mineral Water humbled Toyota Otis-Letran in the Knights' homecourt, 77-64, yesterday and secured an outright semifinal berth in the 2004 PBL Unity Cup at the Letran Gym.

Arwind Santos had another double-double performance with 19 points and 12 rebounds to spark the dominating show that rewarded the Water Force with their fifth straight win and a 6-1 record overall.

Viva grabbed the solo lead over idle Welcoat Paints and clinched the first of two automatic semis berth with two more games to go in the eliminations.

Earlier, Paolo Bugia came off the bench to spearhead an explosive homestretch run as Lee Pipes-Ateneo posted its second straight win, 77-69, over Sunkist-UST.

Bugia scored seven of his 10 points to break a 65-65 tie and lift the Eagles to a 2-5 record overall.

Toyota Otis-Letran dropped to 3-4 and stood behind Sunkist-UST which now has a 4-4 mark.

Scores:

First Game:

LEE PIPES 77—Gelig 17, Fonacier 13, Manalo 10, Bugia 10, Roldan 8, Tenorio 7, Basco 4, Del Rosario 2, Membrere 1, Domingo 0, Kramer 0.

SUNKIST 69—Paterno 19, Compton 12, Vizcarra 8, Luanzon 7, Capati 7, Coronel 6, Santos 3, Patrimonio 3, Latoreno 2, Hubalde 2, Magsumbol 0.

Quarters: 14-13, 38-35, 60-55, 77-69.

Second game:

VIVA 77—Santos 19, Isip 13, Jones 10, Miranda 8, Rizada 7, Raneses 4, Ybanes 4, Co 3, Misolas 3, Catli 2, Garcia 2, Barcelino 2, Yabut 0, Santiago 0.

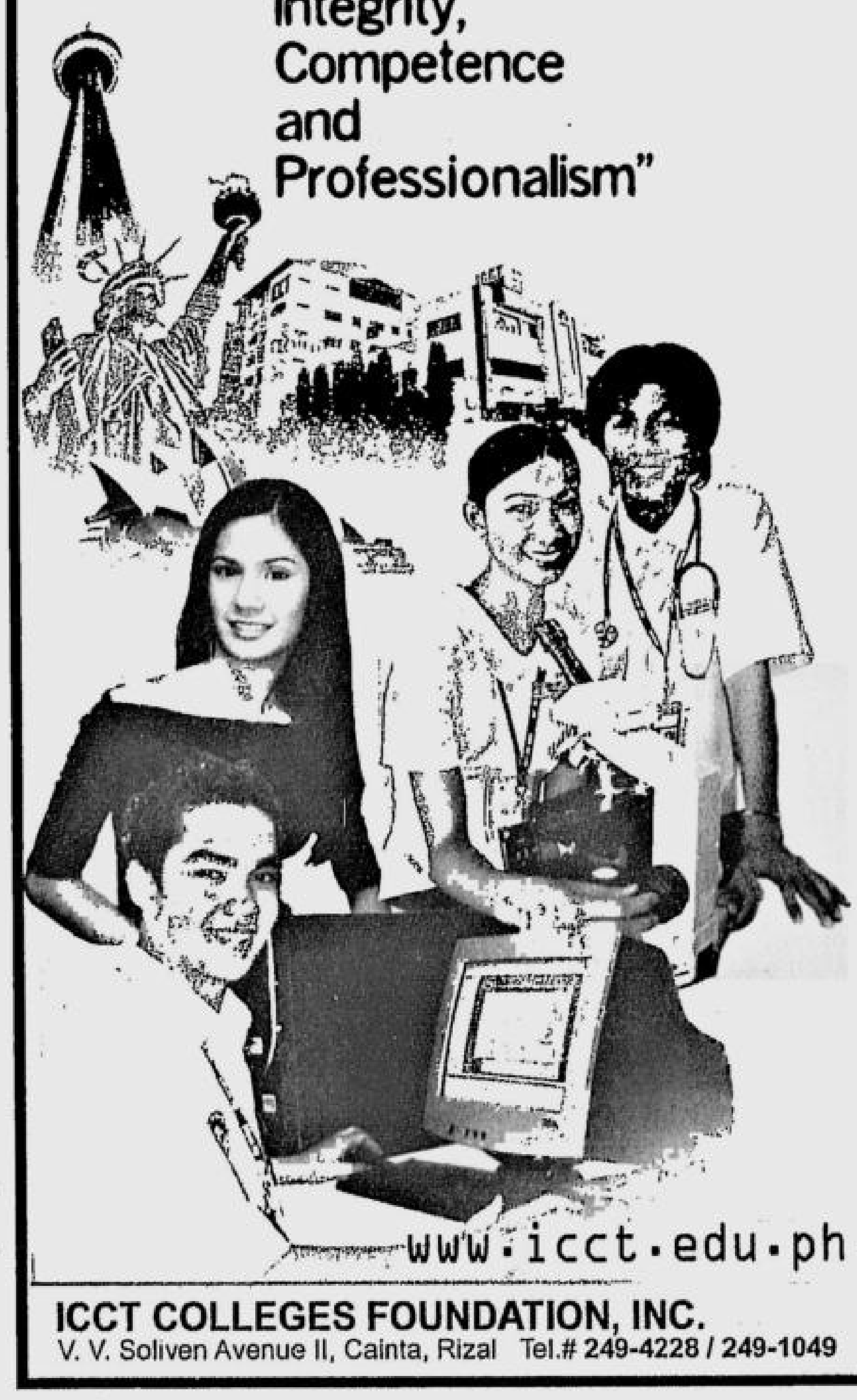
TOYOTA OTIS 64—Bautista 17, Enrile 16, Aban 12, Rodriguez 11, Daa 5, Valdez 3, Pinera 0, Aldave 0, Anabo 0, Abadia 0, Codamon 0, Reyes 0, Santos 0.

Quarters: 22-12, 47-35, 68-45, 77-64.

ICCT COLLEGES
10th COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

02 May 2004 / Ynares Center, Antipolo City

"ICCT Graduates: Anchored on the Principles of Integrity, Competence and Professionalism"



ICCT COLLEGES FOUNDATION, INC.
V. V. Soliven Avenue II, Cainta, Rizal Tel.# 249-4228 / 249-1049

Office of the President of the Philippines
Malacañang
Manila
Message

I send my cordial greetings to this year's graduate of the **ICCT Colleges Foundation, Inc.**

Technological capability is a determining factor that ensures our continued viability and competitiveness as a nation. As the youth an emerging knowledge economy, you are tasked to be at the forefront of our quest for a nation that is truly industrialized and respected in the international community.

I exhort you to utilize your technical know-how and efficiency to help my Administration realize a progressive and prosperous society. May you truly be a part of a productive and participative citizenry that will bring our development goals into fruition for the benefit of the poor and the underprivileged. May you see yourselves as participants to our efforts of making our country strong and progressive.

Together, let us stand united in foregoing a strong Philippine Republic.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Republic of the Philippines
Rizal Provincial Government
Pasig City
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Message

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the 487 graduates of **ICCT Colleges Foundation, Inc.** on your **10th Commencement Exercises,** on Sunday, May 2, 2004, at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

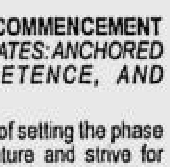
Your graduates is indeed a great milestone in your young lives that you will always fondly remember for many years to come. As appropriately captured in your graduation theme: **"ICCT Graduates: Anchored in the Principles of Integrity, Competence and Professionalism,"** all of you should feel confident as you go about seeking gainful employment for yourselves. Your theme speak well of the urgent task of learning institutions, like ICCT Colleges, in transforming the new generation of Filipinos into highly skilled, highly productive and internationally competitive workforce the ultimate guarantee of job security in the fast changing labor markets of the world.

Global competitiveness is an essential pillar of our country's strategy for economic development. It is the all important catchword of the times. We cannot afford to lag behind in development, and the kind of Philippines we will have in the future will largely depend on you and the other youths of our land. Your roles in the gigantic task of nation building cannot be overemphasized. I believe you have the capability to help make our country more progressive and at par with the more advanced countries of the world.

Godspeed and best of luck to all of your!!!

(Sgd.) Hon. REBECCA YNARES
Governor

Republic of the Philippines
Cainta Municipal Government
Province of Rizal
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Message



With felicity and warm greetings, I congratulate the Administration, members of the faculty & staff, parents and student of the **ICCT COLLEGES** on the occasion of their **10th COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES** this May 2, 2004 with their theme *"ICCT GRADUATES: ANCHORED IN THE PRINCIPLES OF INTEGRITY, COMPETENCE, AND PROFESSIONALISM".*

This occasion carries with it an enormous responsibility of setting the phase as well as being models for the youth. Prepare for the future and strive for excellence in pursuing your goal but at the same time render humanitarian services to those who have less in life.

To your teachers and parents my deepest gratitude for the noble endeavor of selflessly giving their whole efforts, time and talent for the upkeep and moral values you have now, serving as your tools for tomorrow.

Congratulations!

(Sgd.) Hon. NICANOR C. FELIX
Mayor

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Higher Education Regional Office IV
Message

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2004!

It is indeed my pride and honor to convey a message to graduating classes like yours, because I can't help but look back to memories of a graduation like this.

You will now be leaving the portals of your institution, I want you to remember that this is only the beginning of your life, because there are now people around you who expects you to radiate the virtues, the values, the good deeds which have been taught to you by your mentors. Do not fail the people who trusted you and molded you into what you are now especially your parents. Always keep in mind what good you can contribute to improve our economy, because no matter how humble your contribution may be as long as it is done for the glory of God and for the sake of your country, it becomes even greater. Remember the very word of Pres. John F. Kennedy "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country."

I want you to live up to the expectations that the Youth is the Hope of our Fatherland, be pro-active, be counted and be there whenever your country needs you.

More power and may GOD bless you in all your endeavors.

(Sgd.)ISABEL F. INLAYO, Ed.D.
Director IV

TESDA
TECHNICAL EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Message

My dear graduates,

It is with sincere desire that I join friends and relatives in congratulating you and extending to you my best wishes on your graduation. At last you have reaped the fruits of your toil and diligence.

I also take this opportunity of congratulating your parents, guardians, teachers, and all those who labored and sacrificed to make your graduation possible. They have done their job and did it well.

Dear graduates, you are moving on to a new life. Graduation is the beginning of new undertakings. The achievement you have made is just a stepping stone to a higher ladder to success. Put your heart, your soul, all the best there is in you, in every work you undertake. Be optimistic in spite of the many pitfalls and hardships that you will meet along the way. With determination and God's blessings, I know you can succeed and in the end achieve your noble goal in life.

Always remember to look back. Continue to pray for guidance. The lord will always be with you in your successes and in your times of difficulty. Keep your head high and forever hold the ICCT flame burning in your heart!

Good luck and may God richly bless you!

(Sgd.) REMEDIOS FLESTADO
Provincial Director, TESDA - Rizal

ICCT COLLEGES
V V Soliven Avenue II Cainta Rizal
Message

Warmest greetings to the 2004 graduates!

It is with deep pride and sense of accomplishment that I feel every time our ICCT Colleges Foundation, Inc. holds its commencement exercise. Hence, this year having the same sentiments, I greet everybody at ICCT Colleges Foundation, Inc. "CONGRATULATIONS" on the occasion of its 10th Commencement Exercises to be held at the Ynares Center, Antipolo City on May 2, 2004.

We are happy indeed to have nurtured you graduates with values of integrity, competence and professionalism. These three values which are interdependent with each other, without one, renders it incomplete.

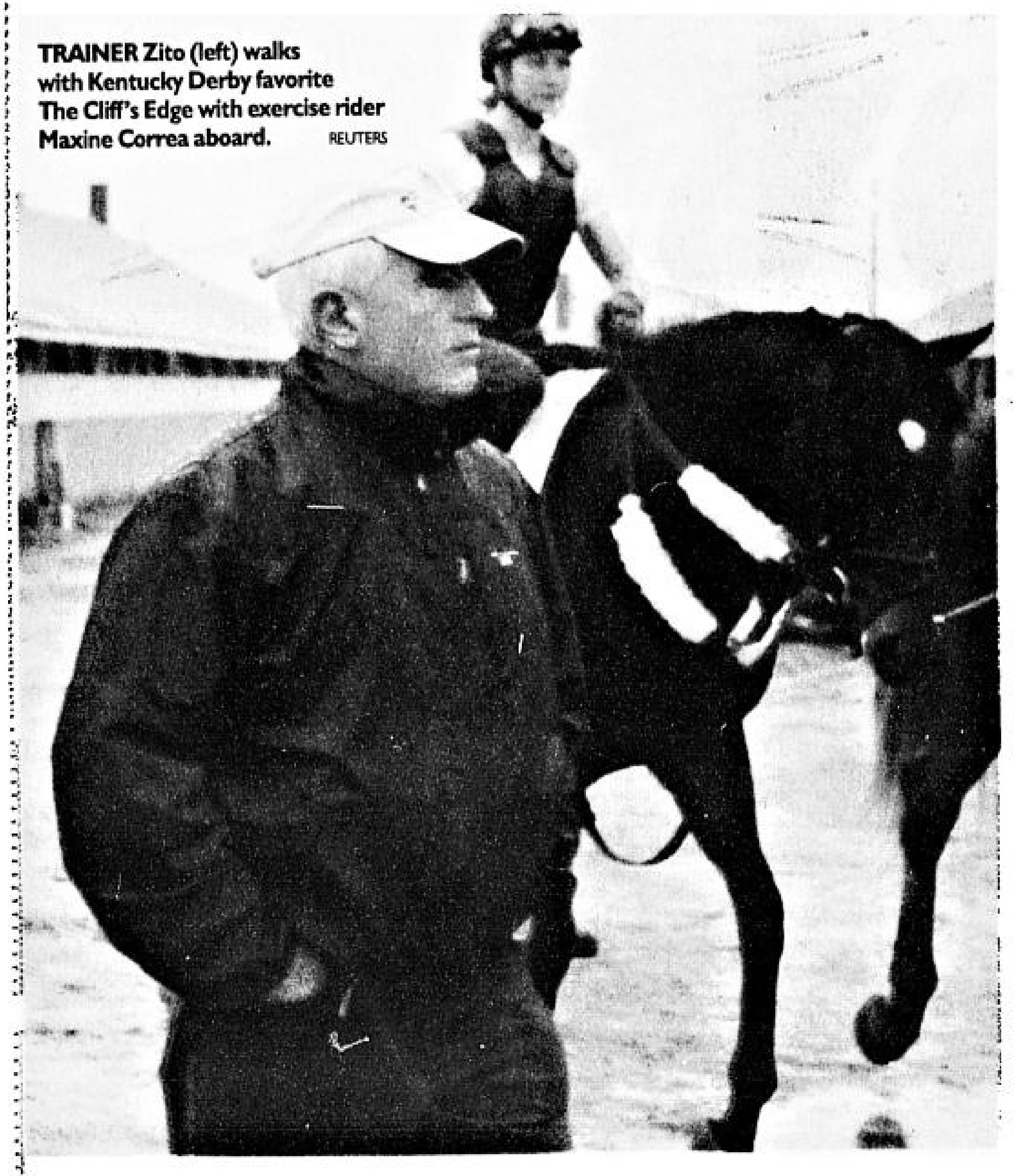
We all know that education is very important. It being the equalizing factor in improving ones' life. It is true that any learning institution can give it. However, knowledge is not enough. If we may equate knowledge with competence, there are still the values of integrity and professionalism to hand in hand make a well-rounded being. A learned man without integrity is no better than an uneducated man with integrity. A knowledge man with integrity further needs professionalism or ethics in the practice of their profession. Let me share with you a bible passage and I quote "knowledge is the beginning of wisdom", and with wisdom, one can rule nations. Almost all parents agree that schools are better equipped with providing the knowledge or wisdom their children need to be prepared to earn a living and help in nation building.

Therefore, I exhort you ICCT graduates to move forward, strive to become what your alma mater expects of you. Be competent professionals with integrity, so that the sacrifices and efforts put forth by your parents and teachers would be worthwhile.

God Bless and Congratulations!!!

CONSUELO L. CO, M.D.
President

Wet, wild, wide open Derby looms



TRAINER Zito (left) walks with Kentucky Derby favorite The Cliff's Edge with exercise rider Maxine Correa aboard. REUTERS

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—The Kentucky Derby is shaping up to be wet, wild and wide open on Saturday.

Even after Wimbledon and St. Averil were scratched with injuries on Friday and trainer Bob Baffert, a three-time winner, won't be around for all the fun.

"This is part of the business you never get used to," said Baffert, who hasn't missed the race since sending out his first starter in 1996.

The latest twists in this wacky Derby reduced a full field of 20 to 18, altered nearly half the post positions, and brightened the prospects of mud-loving racers like Imperialism, Pollard's Vision and the undefeated Smarty Jones.

"Smarty's run in the mud and run well," said trainer John Servis, referring to a victory in the Arkansas Derby that kept the colt unbeaten in six races. "I don't love it, but it doesn't bother me."

There's a 60-percent chance of showers and thunderstorms by Saturday's post time of 6:04 p.m. EDT (2204 GMT). With 18 starters, the Derby purse is $1,154,800, with the winner's share $854,800.

And if it does pour, those corporate logos that jockeys won the right to wear on their silks will be tough to spot when they're splattered with mud.

Jerry Bailey may not be around at all. The top rider in the game was supposed to be aboard Wimbledon, but his agent was scrambling to find a Derby trainer willing to change riders.

"It's disappointing," Bailey said. "Guess I'll have to hang around another year."

So will D. Wayne Lukas, a four-time Derby winner, who doesn't have a starter in the race.

His absence and Baffert's is in itself a Derby footnote: Not since 1980 has a Derby been run without a horse trained by either.

However, there is no shortage of story lines for this race perhaps because it's been such a confusing buildup. Nothing illustrated that better than the fate of trainer Nick Zito's two entries.

The Cliff's Edge became the 4-1 early favorite based on his Blue Grass win and 2-for-2 record at Churchill Downs, but he was Zito's third-stringer when the year began. Birdstone, the longest shot in the field at 50-1, started out as his top prospect, but was sidetracked with a blood ailment.

Smarty Jones, though, has been perfect so far. The smallish chestnut is the 9-2 second choice, but he's the darling of this Derby because of his soap-opera tale.

Meanwhile, a day after being freed by a federal judge to wear advertisements, jockeys cut endorsement deals between races at Churchill Downs on Friday while a seamstress frantically sewed logos onto their pants.

A number of riders will wear ads on Saturday in the Kentucky Derby for the first time, including Shane Sellers, who will be aboard morning-line favorite The Cliff's Edge.

"It's a landmark," said Sellers, one of five jockeys who brought the lawsuit that led to Thursday's ruling.

And an eye-opener for two-time Derby winner Bailey, who said fans in the crowded paddock yelled the name of his new sponsor far more than they did his name or his horse's. *AP*

Wrangler
BULL MARKET

BAILEY wears advertising on his leg in the Louisville Slugger Cup. REUTERS

50 million reasons?

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

STAR jockey Fernando Raquel Jr. was the latest to get the 52-racing week ban.

But Dhunoy, sacked for "deliberately losing the race" aboard Up Rising last Thursday night, need not worry.

The *moro-moro* that is the "suspend-appeal-ride-again" cycle is here to stay.

With his powerful *padrinos,* Raquel is expected to be back in harness sooner than anyone thinks.

Look at JM Ladiana and AS Jacob, both of lesser caliber and popularity than Raquel. After being slapped with recent bans, Ladiana and Jacob are back in the saddle again. According to my Silip Boy, *ginapang lang ang mga ito para makasakay uli.* Also off the hook recently is Jeffril Zarate.

So the gang's (minus Raquel starting next week) all here and ready to join the "*biyahe*" bandwagon again? *Tingnan natin kung gaano kalakas itong* backers *ni* Dhunoy.

That clearly is the case right now as far as suspension of jockeys, *lalo na yung mga* star, is concerned because in this racing game called "*lokohan,*" we the poor *kareristas* always end up as the losers.

***

It's derby day today as the mother of all races—the Kentucky Derby—unfolds at Churchill Downs in Louisville. In this year's running, all eyes will be on 21-year-old Californian Kristin Mulhall who will try to become the first female trainer to win the prestigious race.

If Imperialism wins, Mulhall would break the record for youngest winning trainer set by James Rowe Sr. who was 24 when Hindoo triumphed in 1881.

***

For the first time in history, Hall of Famer Jerry Bailey and other top jockeys will be wearing corporate logos and union patches starting with Derby Day.

Bailey and Shane Sellers were approached recently by sponsors offering them up to $30,000 (about P1.7 million) to wear corporate logos on their pants in the Derby. Unfortunately, Bailey's mount, Wimbledon, was pulled out due to swelling in the leg but Sellers will be partnering early favorite The Cliff's Edge.

"It's a win for everybody," said Sellers.

With this trend, would our star riders like Pat Dilema, Jesus Guce, Dhunoy Raquel, Jeff Zarate and JB Hernandez be endorsing products soon while riding in major big races here?

***

Henri Kahn of MJCI wrote to explain about the club's photo-finish booboo recently:

"The photo for third place in Race 6 last April 10 did not take almost 30 minutes but only between 15-20 minutes.

Remember, the Board of Judges is always extra careful considering the betting public. Deliberation has to be precise so as not to commit an injustice on the betting public.

This same photo has to pass the Board of Stewards for confirmation. Even in the US, to cite an example, during the 2003 Breeders' Cup held at Santa Anita wherein it took almost 20 minutes to decide the outcome of the race.

Things like this happen. Why cite us for such an isolated case when majority of the photo-finish cases were decided fast? By the way, we, too, have a mirror in our inner track at the finish line exactly the same as PRCI. Maybe we have closer races that the horses are bunched together and this requires quality judgment using the photo camera."

***

According to Howie "Diskarte" Basilio of the Bulletin, the developer of the SLLP, horseowner Francisco Maristela, has already pulled out of the Carmona, Cavite, racetrack because of alleged unpaid dues by the management.

Howie said Maristela now has "50 million reasons to go back to Santa Ana."

***

Next week: another "*wa*-class' incident at the "*wa*-class" racetrack.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Super Dave 2. Give and Take 3. Aminin
Race 2—1. Luck of the Irish 2. Boiling Point 3. Decidido 4. Simply Content 5. Grand Ballroom
Race 3—1. Holy King 2. Regalite 3. Words of Joy
Race 4—1. Astig 2. Hawk Eye 3. King's Choice/Elusive Quality 4. Angie Gray
Race 5—1. Blitzkrieg/Morning Nell 2. Man Power 3. Western Legend 4. Silver Cho Cho 5. Silver Dollar
Race 6—1. Material Maker 2. Neat Laurel 3. Absolute Charmer
Race 7—1. Flying Free 2. Bingbong 3. Super Magic 4. Winning Prize 5. Kagilagilalas
Race 8—1. Reporter 2. Hurry Prince 3. Pirouette 4. Time Deposit
Race 9—1. Korek Ka Dyan 2. Free Again 3. Angel Eyes 4. Real Charm
Race 10—1. Bukambibig 2. Don Miguel 3. Cool Clay 4. Extreme Illusion 5. Jerold's Dream
Race 11—1. Siete de Marso 2. Hyperbid 3. Lord of All 4. District Three
Race 12—1. Classic Model 2. Mano Po 3. Noble House 4. Native Talent 6. Precious Moment

Santa Ana hosts Labor Day races

VETERAN campaigner Material Maker clashes with comebacking import sensation and recent tormentor Absolute Charmer in today's Philracom-PRCI Labor Day Cup at the Santa Ana Park.

The Philracom-backed P400,000 stakes race banners Philippine Racing Club's daylong Labor Day racefest, which will also feature a premium race as supporting event.

The much-anticipated clash between Material Maker and Absolute Charmer serves as a rematch of their April 18 meeting at the Santa Ana Park, where the two fillies battled it out to a grueling down-the-wire finish in the PCSO-PNPA Alumni Association Special Race.

Absolute Charmer eventually edged out Material Maker by half a length to score the victory under the guidance of star jockey Fernando Raquel Jr.

This time around, however, the two fillies will be racing over a longer distance of 1,600 m, 100 m more than their previous encounter, and Material Maker will be carrying 5 kg less in handicap weight and will now be reunited with regular rider Patricio Dilema.

Mendez passes away

VETERAN racing columnist Camilo "Boy" Mendez passed away yesterday following a heart attack while performing his duties as chairman of the board of stewards of the Philippine Racing Club.

Mendez, also a director of the Philippine Sportswriters Association and columnist of Balita, would have turned 65 on May 10. Mendez's body lies at the Arlington Memorial Chapel in Araneta Ave., Quezon City. His son, Carlo, said interment would be announced later.

First Gentleman's dog show at QC grounds

THE FIRST Gentleman's Cup/6th SLGSDA Landesgruppen Sieger dog show unfolds today at the Quezon City Hall grounds.

Organized by Southern Luzon German Shepherd Dog Association, the event will have First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo as special guest.

Today's show by SLGSDA under the leadership of chair Mon Sison, president Edrich Cabrera and vice president Francis Lumunsad will have no less than top Manila-based judge Robert Dawson of Australia doing the scrutinizing and rating of the super dogs for the sieger and siegerin open class titles.

"I congratulate SLGSDA for its tremendous effort in getting full support of giant sponsors like Pagcor, Eukanuba, Ford Libis, Promac, Palms Country, Happy Dog, Diamond Fud and Rhino Rand Herbal Tea. With these companies, SLGSDA is more than ready to move forward with the next show in November," said GSDF chair lawyer Jose A. Sibal.

Directors Arnold Sisnero and Tony Cordero said they are expecting no less than 150 entries from Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Batangas, Laguna, Central and Northern Luzon as well as Metro Manila.

All-puppy class (3-6/6-9/9-12 mos.) will start at exactly 9 a.m. while the much-awaited junior and open class kicks off at 1:30 p.m.

Interested parties may call 0918-9306078.

Diego feared for his life

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Diego Maradona said Friday he feared for his life during his 12-day hospital stay for heart and lung problems, making his first public comments after leaving intensive care.

The 43-year-old soccer great at times rambled in slurred speech during a one-hour interview with Argentine talk show host Susana Gimenez and offered thanks to his fans for their support during his ordeal.

"I want to thank the people who prayed for me," he said. "I saw death up close and I wanted them to cover me, to caress me."

His eyes welling with tears, Maradona added: "When God decides its time, I guess he'll come for us."

Maradona spoke hours after his father, who is also named Diego, was hospitalized.

The elder Maradona checked into the Institute Sacre Coeur in downtown Buenos Aires with a respiratory infection, said a hospital spokesperson, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

During his first full day out of the hospital, Maradona played golf and walked on a secluded country estate on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

De Castro surprises top seed Zoleta

THIRD seed Ivy de Castro barged into the girls' 18-under final after posting a 6-3, 6-4 upset win over top seed Bien Zoleta yesterday in the Toby's-Philta Junior Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. De Castro will face unseeded Trudy Amoranto, who ousted second seed Kristel Samala, 6-1, 6-3. Fourth seed Russell Arcilla Jr. eliminated top seed Daniel Luis Macalino, 7-5, 6-2, to arrange a final duel with fourth seed Pablo Olivarez II, who scored a 6-2, 6-4 win over No. 10 Johnwill Baldonado. In the boys' 21-under semis, sixth seed Ian de Guzman beat his younger brother Irwin, 7-5, ret. In the girls' division, top seed Jessica Agra whipped third seed Nikki Manalo, 7-6 (2), 6-0, and second seed Bambi Zoleta routed sixth seed Christine Patrimonio, 6-1, 6-1, to dispute the 14-under title. Top seed Zhane Quitara downed sixth seed Sally Mae Siso, 6-2, 6-2, to reach the 12-under final. In the boys' 12-under, top seed Akio Sy ripped fourth seed Joseph Baldonado, 6-0, 6-1, to advance in the final against second seed Kim Ivor Saraza, who beat third seed Bernardine Siso, 6-2, 6-3.

Arcilla, Victorino forge final match

TOP seed Johnny Arcilla rallied past third seed Roland Ruel Jr., 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, yesterday to advance in the final of the Philippine Sinter Corp. (PSC) Men's Open Tennis Championship in Misamis Oriental. Arcilla will meet second seed Joseph Victorino, who needed an extra set to beat fifth seed Jesse Lapore, 7-5, 1-6, 6-0. In the doubles, fourth seeds Joel Palao and Danilo Sajonia scored a 6-4, 7-5 upset win over second seeds Ruel and Lapore to forge a final showdown with top seeds Arcilla and Victorino, 6-3, 6-3 winners over Bo Alburo and Arvin Jurao.

Junior tennis goes to Maasin, Leyte

MAASIN, Leyte—The hometown of former Davis Cup hero Ringo Navarrosa takes center stage when the 4th leg of the 2004 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop fires off today at the Maasin Tennis Club here. History unfolds when the Philippine Tennis Association-sanctioned Group-5 event is staged for the first time in this tennis-boom town of Maasin coming from the successful Olongapo City leg where nine age groupers from the Saudi Arabia-based Aramco team participated. The Children's Tennis Workshop-organized netfest celebrating Milo's 40 years in the Philippine consumer market is supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids.

FIRST GENTLEMAN CUP. Participants prepare for the first Gentleman's Cup/6th SLGSDA Landesgruppen Sieger dog show which will be held at the Quezon City grounds today. The show is organized by the Southern Luzon German Shepherd Dog Association headed by chairman Mon Sison, president Edrich Cabrera and vice president Francis Lumunsad. More than 150 entries are expected to join the event.

29 APRIL 2004

BADMINTON MOA. Malaysian Datuk Punch Gunalan (center), honorary secretary general of the Asian Badminton Confederation, witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between Philippine Badminton Association and Philippine Tournaments Inc. last April 29 at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center. PTI will organize tournaments for the PBA. From left, PTI finance officer Jojo Oconer, PBA vice president Gen. Edgar Agilpay, PTI project director Weena Lim and PBA secretary general Col. George Piano.

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Gerald stays in the hunt; Jenny 5 off

BEIJING—Gerald Rosales shot a 1-under-par 71 Saturday and remained in contention in the $300,000 inaugural Volkswagen Masters China at the Pine Valley Golf Club here.

The slim but long-hitting Filipino, who sizzled with a seven-under 65 in the second round, stood three shots off a five-way tie for the lead with his 208 total.

Sharing the lead at 205 were Australians Kim Felton and [illegible] Phillip Price of Wales, Kang [illegible] of Korea and Rahil Gangjee of India.

Meanwhile in Stockbridge, Georgia, Jenny Rosales, Gerald's sister, needed a birdie on the 18th to score a 70 and join Annika Sorenstam and three others in 19th spot at 140 after the second round of the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship Friday.

Aree Song surged into position to become the youngest winner ever on the LPGA Tour, shooting a 6-under 66 for a share of the second round.

Song, on her last day as a 17-year-old, was tied with Lorie Kane, who made birdies on three of her last five holes in a 68, at 9-under 135 after two rounds.

While 14-year-old Michelle Wie is usually billed as the future of women's golf, Song is clearly the more accomplished player at this point.

And maybe this is a telling sign: Song's biography in the LPGA media guide is right alongside Sorenstam's.

The world's best player and her successor?

"It all starts on the inside," Song said.

The rookie seems to be adjusting just fine to life as a pro. A six-birdie, no-bogey round was hardly out of character.

The South Korea native first played in a major tournament as a 13-year-old amateur, tying for 10th at the Kraft Nabisco Championship. Last year, she was fifth at the US Women's Open. After getting an age exemption from the LPGA, Song turned professional and just missed winning the first major of the year, making a gutsy eagle on the final hole of the Nabisco but losing to Grace Park by a stroke. *AP*

SONG hits her tee shot on the 11th hole. AFP

EAGLE RIDGE HOST

Ateneo-La Salle tiff June 5

FOR the whole day on June 5, all four courses of the country's biggest golf club—the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Trece Martirez, Cavite—will be used for the exciting annual golf dual meet between Ateneo and La Salle.

Hosting the event that is expected to be participated in by more than 700 alumni and current students of both schools, Eagle Ridge's four-course might will be put to test as it stages what used to be a three-day festivity into just an 18-hole affair.

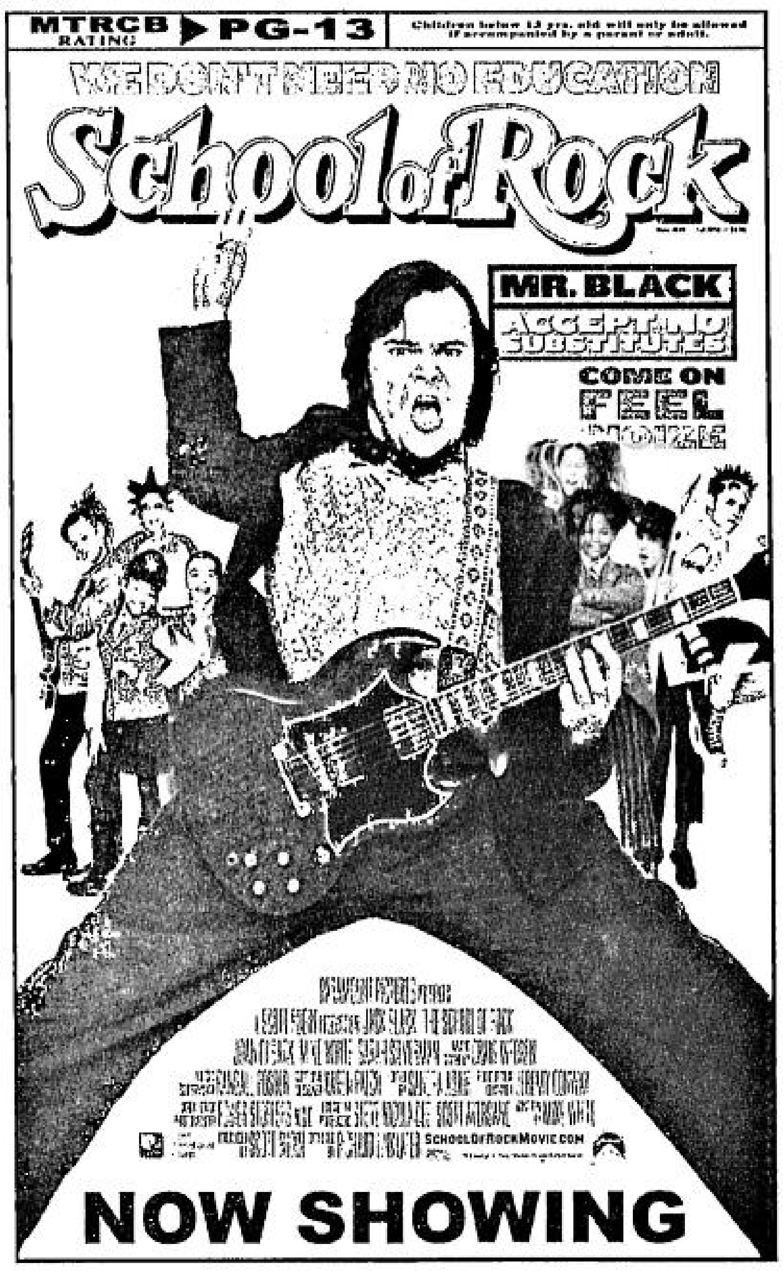
After La Salle won last year's edition of the meet to keep permanent possession of the Ambassador Valdez Trophy, organizers decided to change the format of the tourney just for this year.

Instead of the usual showdown of the two schools, this year's edition will be a fellowship tourney wherein a player from each school will form a team and will vie for honors in five different classes based on their average handicaps.

The modified scramble will be used as the format of play. Teams with handicaps falling in Class A will tackle the Andy Dye course, Class B will tee off at the Nick Faldo course, Class C at the Greg Norman course, the Open class at the Aoki course.

There will be a shotgun start at 8 a.m. in all four courses.

Deadline for submission of entries is on May 24, Monday and interested parties are advised to call their respective alumni offices or the host club for inquiries. An entry fee of P2,500 is already inclusive of green fee, golf cart (one per team), giveaways, the awards luncheon and a raffle ticket.



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Ali 3	HELLBOY
Ali 4	STARSKY & HUTCH
Ali 5	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
Ali 6	SCHOOL OF ROCK
Ali 7	MAN ON FIRE

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TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ANIMAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

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CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DEATH CURSE
CINEMA-6	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-7	CHECK INN
CINEMA-8	ACACIA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HELLBOY
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CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SCHOOL OF ROCK
CINEMA-12	WHOLE 10 YARDS
CINEMA-14	MAN ON FIRE
CINEMA-15	TAKING LIVES

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
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CINEMA-4	BONE SNATCHER

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PG-13

2 **STARSKY & HUTCH**
11:40, 1:50, 4:00
6:10, 8:20, 10:30
PG-13

3 **MAN ON FIRE**
11:00, 1:55, 4:55
7:55, 10:00
R-18

4 **SCHOOL OF ROCK**
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
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MAN OF FIRE **R18** 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:20	**HELLBOY** **PG13** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	**STARSKY AND HUTCH** **PG13** 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

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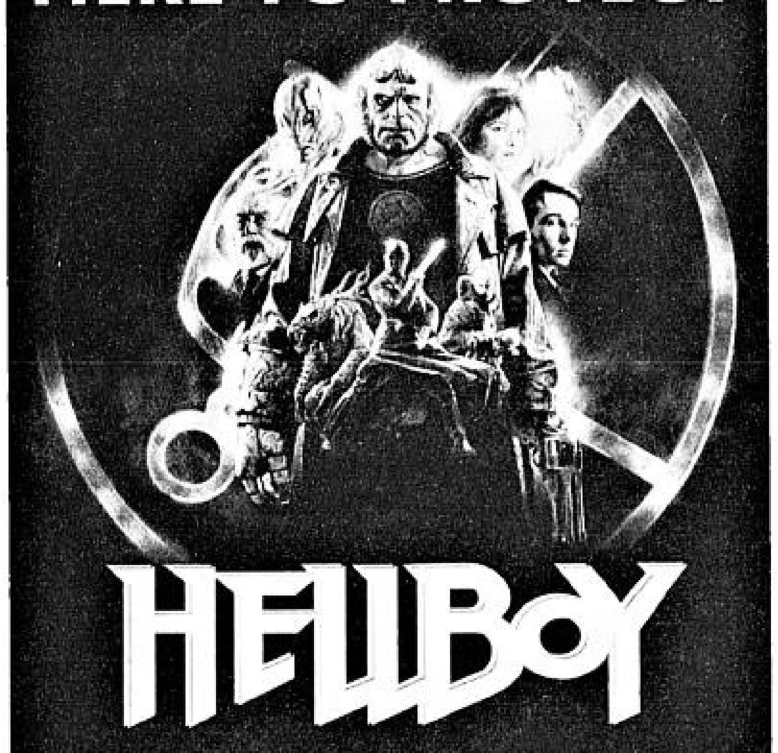

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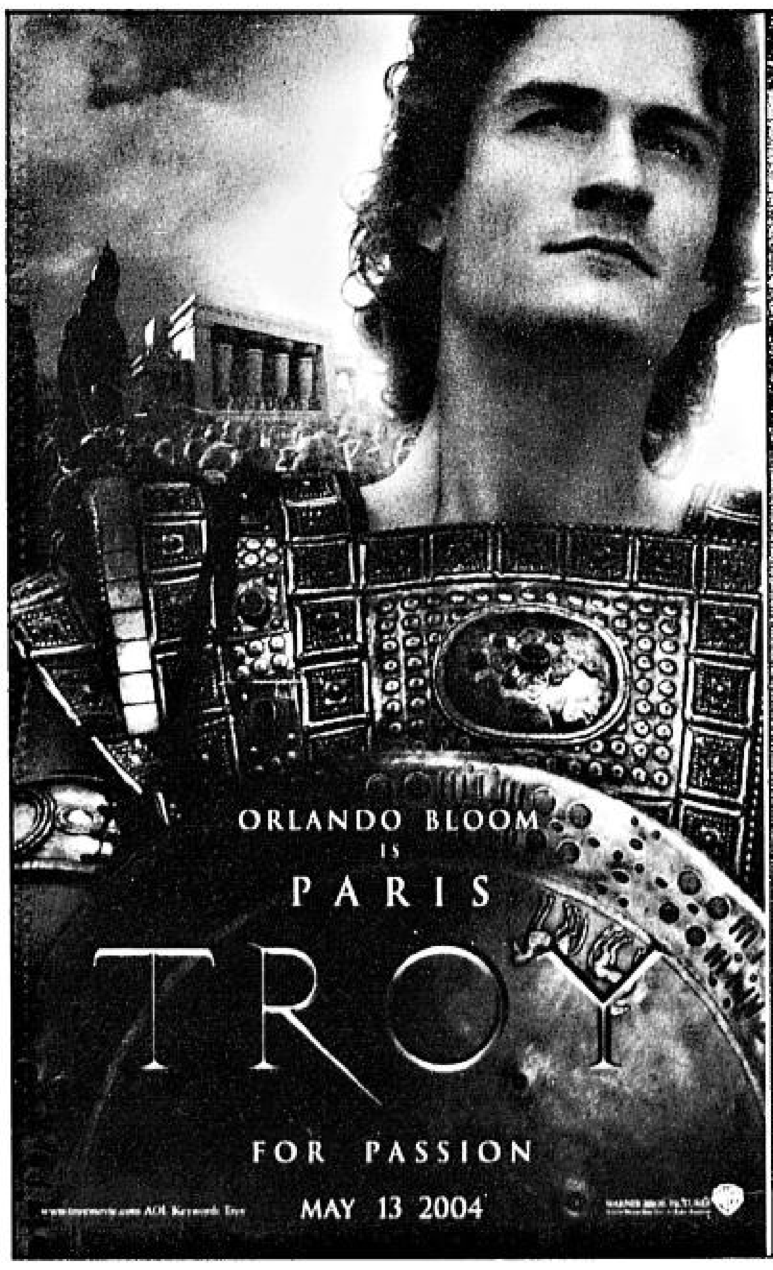

"Men will hunt us down and the gods will curse us. But until the day they burn my body, I will love you."

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- 5 **THE WHOLE TEN YARDS** 12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.10
- 6 **HAUNTED SPIRIT** 12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.10
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Streetball today in Baguio

STREETBALL action unfolds in Baguio City today as the 9th adidas Streetball Challenge stages its games at the St. Louis University.

An estimated 50 teams composed of boys and girls battle it out to represent Baguio in the Luzon Finals at the Robinsons Starmills in Pampanga on May 8 and 9.

"We just finished Naga and Lipa last weekend and Dagupan last Thursday. We're very happy with the turnout of contenders here in Baguio. We are getting more and more participants in every leg that we visit," said Goody Custodio, sports marketing manager of adidas Philippines.

The 9th adidas Streetball Challenge is co-presented by Globe Gentext in cooperation with WGA Zip, Cebu Pacific, adidas Fragrance, Snickers Chocolate bar, Powerade, Mentos and Warner Music.

Winners of the seniors' and girls' teams from the national finals on July will represent the country in the Asian adidas Streetball Challenge to be held this September in Seoul, Korea.

The Philippines, represented by the University of Visayas, won the title in 2002.

Foundation supporting Pines City squad

THE JAPINO Foundation has agreed to support the Baguio City Cardinal's campaign in the Panasonic-Iloilo Invitational Cup basketball tournament set May 5-8 in Iloilo City.

"It is an honor for our group to be identified with the Baguio basketball team," said Ricky Miyagi, chairman of Japino Foundation, which holds office at 390 Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The Cardinals' team owner, Des Bautista, thanked Miyagi and promised that his team would give its best in the Panasonic-Iloilo cagefest and in the NBC national championship. The Cardinals are coached by Nap Garcia and managed by Nick Parado.

Live March starts May 21

THE LIVE March, an unprecedented show featuring some of the top Filipino boxers at present, as well as some of the world's icons of the past such as Muhammad Ali, Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan, starts on May 21.

The Springboard Foundation, headed by its chair, John Milne, and boxing promoter Edgardo "Boy" Cantada, is organizing the black-tie affair.

Micropharma Corp., Johnnie Walker, San Miguel Beer, Ford, Gillette, Jardine Schindler and Lufthansa Cargo are the major sponsors of the event slated at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

"This will be a truly memorable and unique event packed with excitement as we feature top-class Filipino boxers and auction rare sporting memorabilia," said Milne, also the event's chairman.

"Best of all, it's for an excellent cause as all profits to be generated will go to Philippine-based charities which will be selected by the Springboard Foundation committee."

"This is one show to remember as we expect over 600 prominent guests," Cantada said.

The main event will feature Rodel Mayol's defense of the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation minimum flyweight title against world-rated Ernesto Rubillar. The under-card will feature former world champ Gerry Penalosa, Wyndell Janiola, Benedict Suico and Mercito Gesta.

'Fistorama' on RPN 9

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today starts at 2 p.m. on RPN 9. Following the show, now on its third year, is "Golf Power" at 3 p.m.

"Fistorama" features two exciting bouts in the superfeatherweight and superflyweight divisions.

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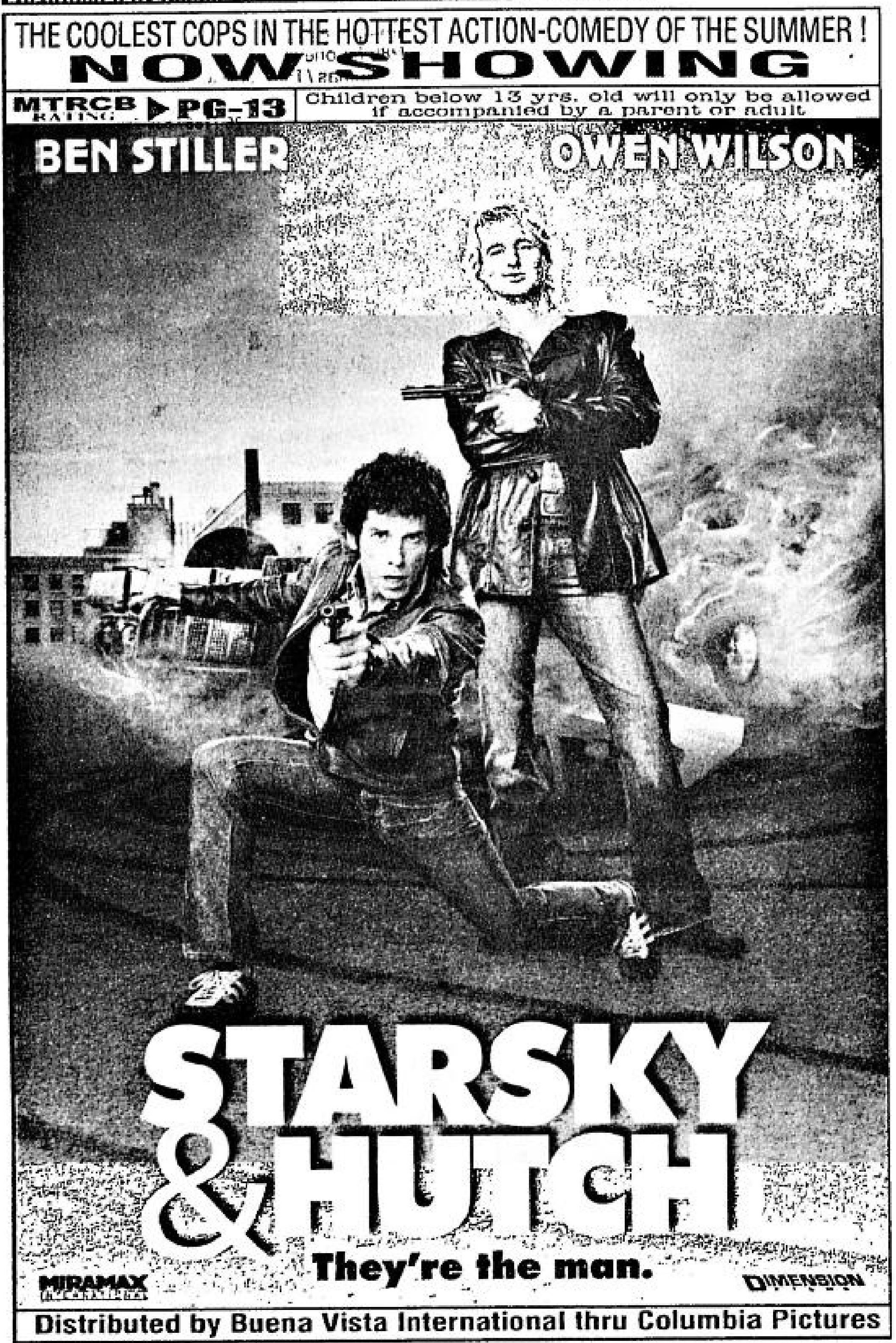
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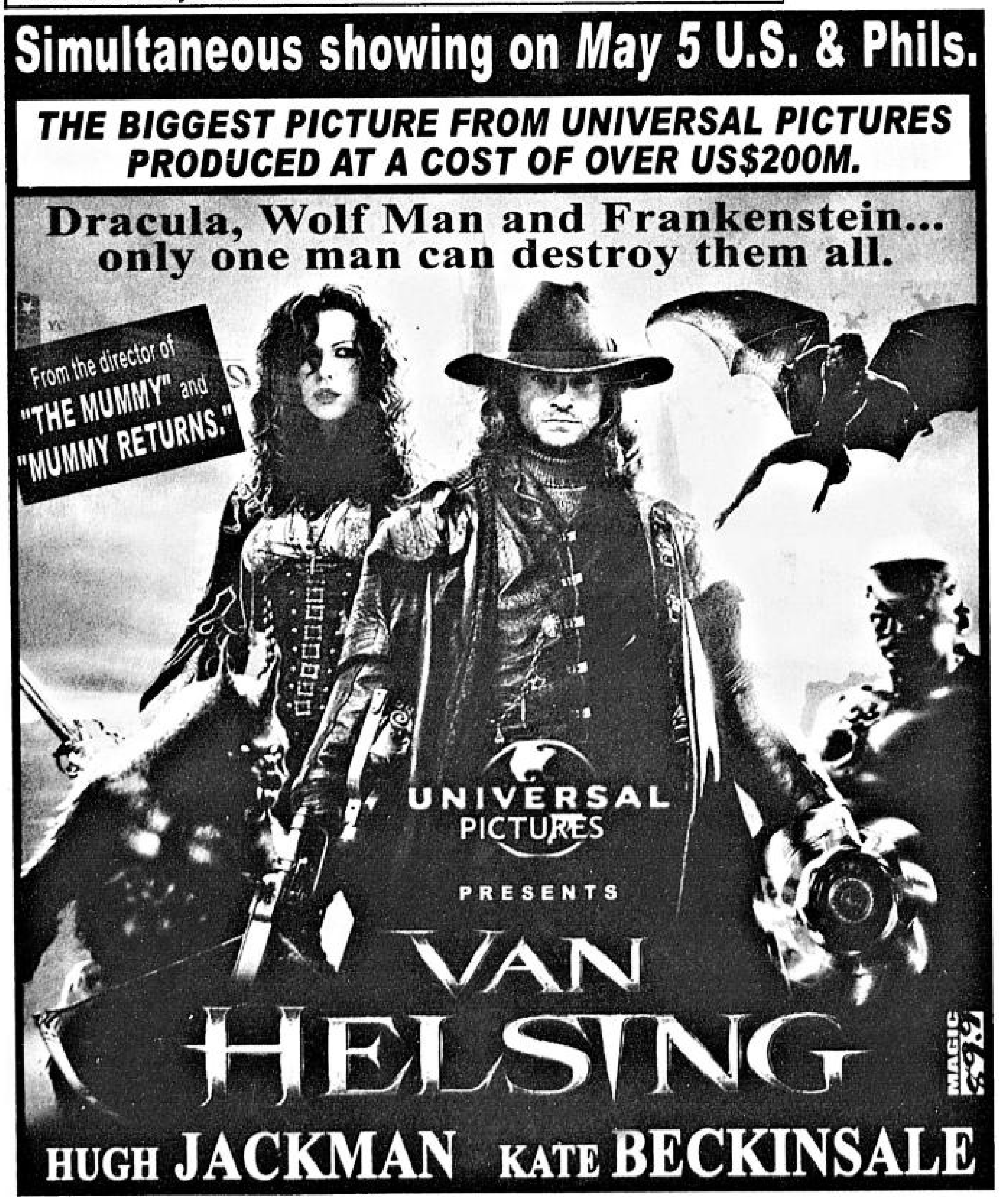
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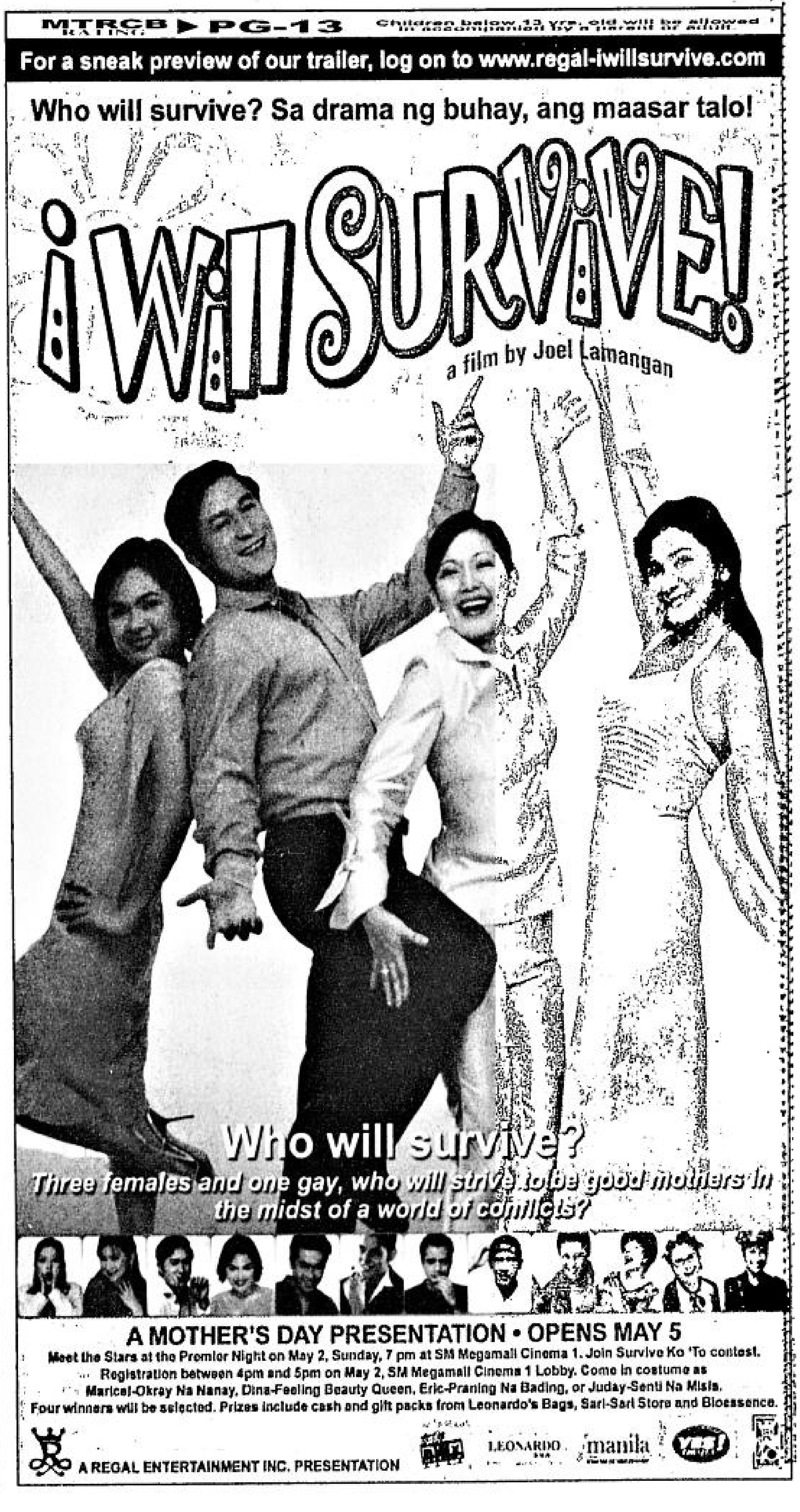
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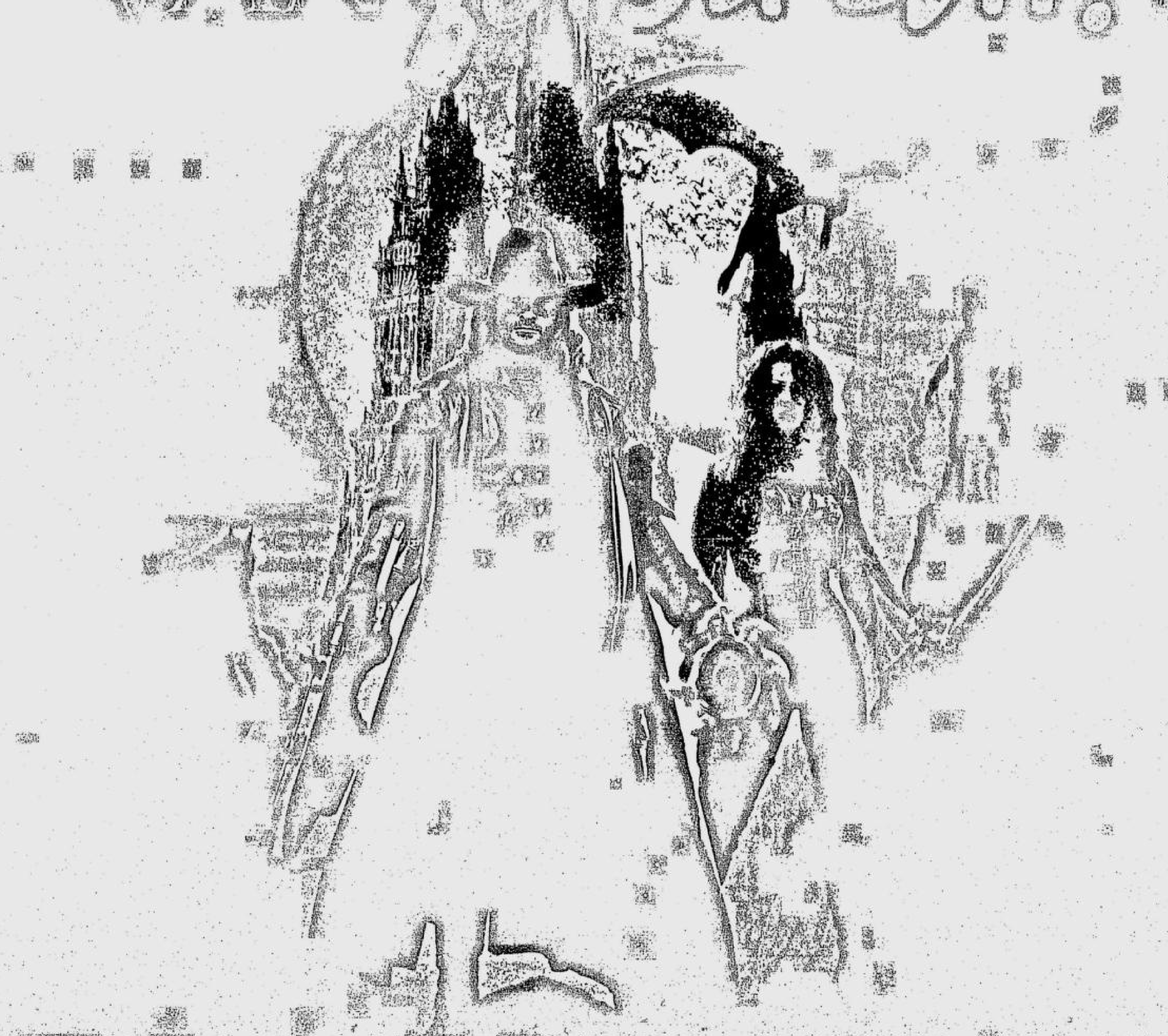

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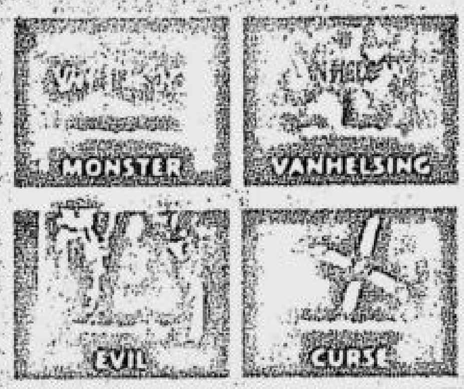
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US college graduate's bet on RP pays off

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TECHNOLOGY has become so advanced that people can check e-mail through their mobile phone, sales people in the field can "beam" orders from their Palm computers to a central server and farmers out in the most remote of places can check world market prices of commodities by browsing the Internet.

This was not always so.

In 1988, mainframes used to occupy big rooms, computers were running at a snail's pace, mobile phones had to be carried around in shoulder bags and connectivity and the Internet were alien concepts.

This was the world Myla Crespo-Villanueva found herself in when she decided after getting an Economics degree from the Santa Clara University in the United States to pack her bags, leave her family, and find her own fortune back home in the Philippines.

She was inspired to bring to the Philippines the technology that she was exposed to in Silicon Valley, California, where Steve Jobs of Apple, Noorda of Novell and Al Shugart of Seagate were developing technologies that were changing the way of life and business.

With $67,000 in capital from her savings and loans from her family, she set up MDI in May 1988 with six employees in a small office near Gil Puyat Avenue.

She set up MDI to integrate network systems and enable computers in the Philippines to "communicate" with one another. There was a huge opportunity as computer sales were rising rapidly. Thus, the desire to connect into one network would soon follow.

She was a few months into her business when she started having serious doubts about the wisdom of her decision. Besides the fact that "connecting" computers into a network was hard for many people to grasp, it took a lot of convincing for officials of top corporations to believe that the petite, 21-year-old with no experience in business, really knew what she was talking about.

"I was asking myself, did I make the right decision? What have I done? I was comfortable in the US. But then it was always my intention to be an entrepreneur," she said in an interview.

Villanueva was close to losing all the money that she saved when she had that fateful meeting with officers of the Social Security System, which at that time had 125 branches.

"I thought it would be the younger set that would under-

US COLLEGE/ B2

VILLANUEVA

ARTHA KIRA PAREDES/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

IN JUST a few more weeks, this kabatiti will be ready for harvest.

Abra village meets need for loofah

By Artha Kira Paredes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAGANGILANG, Abra—From May to December, the fields of Sitio Bio in Barangay San Isidro here are filled with flowering kabatiti or patola (bottle gourds). Their fruits almost reach the ground; some grow up to 30 inches long.

In the mornings, kabatiti growers like Julio Albis inspect their vines, count their fruits and try to estimate the yield.

"Ten fruits would mean P100," says Albis.

"Should the lands be irrigated, we could grow kabatiti all year round and plant twice a year," Albis adds.

Processing loofah, the dried fibrous kabatiti used as a body scrub, is the primary means of livelihood in Sitio Bio, about 17 km from the capital town of Bangued.

At least 12 hectares of land in the village are planted to kabatiti once a year, at the onset of the rainy season.

In 1992, Marilou Magat, a landowner in Sitio Bio, asked farmer Dominador Albis to transform her pastureland into a kabatiti plantation.

At that time, the Department of Science and Technology had started loofah production and processing, said Menandro Buenafe, DOST officer.

He said the seeds that they used in the initial production came from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (Laguna).

Since the Department of Agrarian Reform distributed lands to farmers, families here turned the pasturelands awarded to them into kabatiti plantation areas.

Sixteen families are now engaged in loofah production.

Farmers here say that income from kabatiti growing and loofah production is three to four times higher than the profit from planting rice.

Two hectares of land could give them net sales of up to P70,000.

Irrigated rice lands in the nearby village of Calao in Bucay town are starting to be converted into kabatiti plantations following the success of Sitio Bio.

The initial capital for a two-hectare plantation is at least P30,000, farmers said.

The materials include six to seven feet of *putek* (thick bamboo), which are used as a trellis. Each piece costs P5 but it could be used up to three years.

Aluminum wires are also needed so the vines would have something to cling to. The wires could be used up to six years.

While the kabatiti is young, farmers take the opportunity to plant beans, watermelon, squash and peanuts.

Kabatiti shoots are also edible and are sold. So while farmers are waiting for the plants to mature, they can sustain themselves with the harvest of other crops they grow.

Farmers harvest three times in seven months. This means that fertilizer is also applied three times. The plants have to be sprayed every now and then because insects and worms destroy them.

The area near the roots must also be grass and weed free so that they do not compete

ABRA/ B2

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ROBLES HERITAGE INC.

Capiz shell puts on world-class export appeal

By Visitacion R. dela Torre
Contributor

GIDEON and Pet Robles make an ideal team.

Not only are they partners in business, they are also housemates, nurturing a family of five. This couple is behind the production and export of some of our country's handcrafted treasures in capiz shell and stained glass.

As gleaned from the company's showroom at Almanza, Las Piñas, the matter of quality execution is a given, since these products compete in the global market. What perhaps makes the items a cut above the rest is the firm's sensitivity to the essentials of world-class appeal.

Although the companies that both manufacture these (Robles Heritage Inc. for the capiz shell and Balanghai International Inc. for the stained glass) follow certain guidelines, one knows distinctly that they are bound for the international market.

Well-designed

Pet explains, "The product should be designed well—both structurally as well as aesthetically."

Here is where Pet's sense of artistry surfaces. Her creativity emerges in every tiny figurine or table top or hanging ornament or magnificent church in stained glass.

Both firms have a full complement of artists. There are in-house artists who conceive and design the products even as Filipino artists who have made it big in the international scene of design, help out with their expertise and exposure.

Another concern is that the product can be mass produced—that while it answers a definite need, it can be duplicated or replicated in an efficient manner to make its price competitive as well.

All throughout the process, both Gideon and Pet make sure the products pass through their eagle eyes.

Their logo, a silhouette of a human figure, stands for "The spirit of excellence and innovation," is truly appropriate.

Winner at outset

The indigenous material that Robles Heritage Inc. works with is already a winner at the outset. Capiz, a bivalve, is abundant in deep Philippine waters. Due to its fragile, thin, translucent nature, it is often referred to as "glass oyster" or "window pane oyster" owing to its centuries-old traditional use as window sash for elegant Philippine houses. It helps a lot, too, that Gideon hails from Iloilo and Oton, one of the towns in this laid-back province, produces one of the best, or nicest type of capiz shell.

As a material, capiz shell has endless potentials. One can make the smallest and most intricate jewelry from capiz while another can do an elaborate chandelier or divider.

And from the way the company handles this material, it is no wonder why trend-setter clients like Pottery Barn, Smithsonian Institute and Dr. Spiegel in the US, HEMA from Germany or El Corte Ingles from Spain, among others, continue to patronize these products.

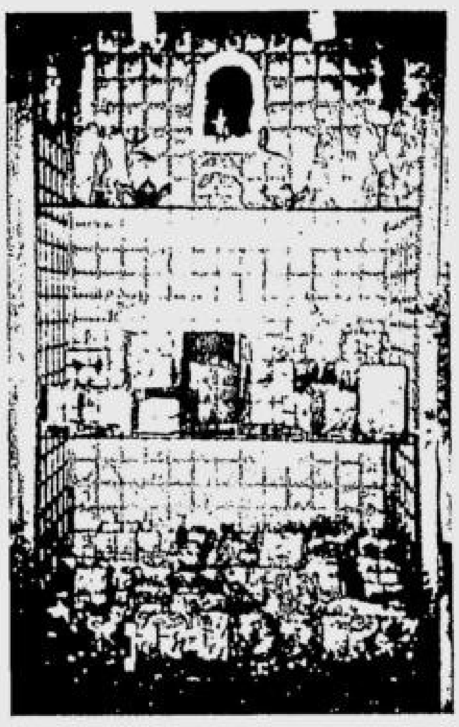
Transforming capiz shell from a dirty bivalve to a work of art is a long story of patience and dedication, talent and discipline.

Home enterprise

Starting as a home enterprise in the mid '70s, under the name "Robles Handicrafts," Robles Heritage Inc. saw the then newly married couple, Pet and Gideon Robles, churning out capiz lamp shades in Pasay City as a subcontractor of capiz shades and chandeliers of a Manila Hotel contractor.

What initiated the couple into exports was when, in 1979, a big American distributor gave a sizeable order for capiz mobiles and chimes.

In 1982, the couple bought a 2,600-sq.-m. lot as office/warehouse at Impex Compound in Pamplona where the company expanded into other sea shell products.



CAPIZ and stained glass products range from the simple to the sophisticated.

A few years later, Robles Heritage Inc. came up with an extensive export marketing program, enabling it to establish a satellite production in Oton, Iloilo.

Setting its sights on new products and more markets, the company, in 1989, diversified into handcrafted items made of stained glass under the name, Balanghai International Inc., a subsidiary of Robles Heritage.

As the name suggests, balanghai was once the pre-Spanish vessel used by our ancestors to trade with neighboring countries.

At present, Balanghai International, Inc. manufactures and exports stunning pieces of accessories, home décor, lighting fixtures and other wares made of stained glass. Why stained glass? "Because of its play of colors," replies Pet, her face lighting up as she goes through the various artistic possibilities that the material lends.

More versatile

Like capiz shell, stained glass is versatile. Its long history of use in works of art and architecture such as windows, mausoleums and churches, adds to the glamour and elegance of a contemporary piece of stained glass.

Capiz and stained glass products range from the simple to the sophisticated.

These include mobiles, chimes, wall decors, sun catchers, picture and mirror frames, candle holders, Christmas and other seasonal items, table top items, lamp shades, bath accessories, and sconces, screens, dividers, among others.

To enable their fellow Filipinos to purchase and own these handmade capiz or stained glass treasures, the couple put up some retail outlets in several fashionable malls such as at the Ayala Alabang Town Center, SM Southmall, SM City North, Glorietta 4 in Makati, MC Home Depot at Fort Bonifacio, Global City, SM Ortigas and at SM in Iloilo.

Balanghai International was named "Centennial Golden Shell Awardee" in 1997 for "Marketing and Design Excellence." The Golden Shell Awards are handed out by Citem under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to pay tribute to local export companies in their quest for product quality performance.

There's a deep sense of gratitude that the couple feels for the support that some government agencies like Philippine International and Trading Corp. (PITC), Technology and Livelihood Resources Center (TLRC), DTI and Citem.

Balance the resources

Robles Heritage Inc. and Balanghai International Inc. believe that there's a need to balance human and natural resources with promoting sustainable development of the environment. For instance, the method of harvesting capiz.

One cannot just harvest any size of the capiz shell. It has to grow to a certain size before it can be harvested. Like oil, capiz shells can be depleted.

That the couple finds fulfillment in their venture is evident. Even if once in a while they encounter difficulties, they manage to rise above crises and turn these into learning opportunities. As to the current developments in the world market, Gideon points out, "We should have more drive. We should be at the forefront of competition. I know that in the midst of crisis, we Filipinos perform better. We unleash our best and come out on top."

What does he suggest Filipinos, both professionals and skilled workers, do to remain competitive?

"We should go back to our roots—discover more about our identity, our heritage," Gideon avers, his nationalistic streak showing.

"Our ace is in our designs. We have the talent, yes, but we have to persevere, keep on pushing our limits, not back slide or be *ningas cogon* (enthusiastic and raring to do well only in the beginning)," he adds.

Pet contributes, "We have to continuously work hard, and that includes innovating, keeping up with the changing times. Innovation covers two things—in design and in techniques. We study and apply new techniques never tried before, to come up with new products."

That is precisely what Robles Heritage Inc. and Balanghai International Inc. are all about—their products have that world-class appeal because the hands-on managers continue to meet head-on new challenges, new ways of looking at things, and thereby, grow not only in their business, but also, in wisdom.

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CIRCULAR NO. 17-P

TO : ALL SSS MEMBERS

SUBJECT : CONDONATION OF PENALTIES ON STOCK INVESTMENT AND PRIVATIZATION FUND LOAN PROGRAMS

Pursuant to Social Security Commission (SSC) Resolution No. 525 dated 24 September 2003 and as amended by SSC Resolution No. 603 dated 29 October 2003, the following are the guidelines on condonation of penalties on stock investment and privatization fund loan programs:

I. WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO APPLY FOR CONDONATION

Borrowers who are delinquent in the payment of their amortizations on stock investment and privatization fund loans.

II. WHAT ARE THE APPLICABLE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Availment period is from 24 September 2003 to 19 January 2005.
2. Payment of arrears (outstanding principal and interest) may be made in full or in installment during the availment period. The borrowers may opt to sell the shares of stock provided that the net proceeds shall be applied as payment to the outstanding principal and interest balance.
3. The amount of penalties condoned is proportionate to the amount of arrears paid. For example, if all arrears are paid, then all corresponding penalties are condoned. If only 50% of arrears are paid, then only 50% of penalties are condoned. The remaining arrears will continue to accumulate penalties.
4. If the remaining arrears are subsequently paid during the availment period, the accumulated penalties are condoned.
5. Those who availed of the program shall be allowed to avail/renew other types of member loans after two years from date of last installment paid within the availment period.

III. HOW TO AVAIL OF THE PROGRAM

The borrowers who will avail of the program may visit the nearest SSS Branch.

A. Cash or Installment:

1. Statement of account may be secured from any SSS Branch or the nearest SSS Branch.
2. Payment shall be made through any SSS authorized collecting banks or at the Cashiering Department in Quezon City or Cashiering Units of the following SSS Branches: Tarlac, Cebu, Bacolod, General Santos, Malolos, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga, Baguio, San Pablo, Naga, La Union and Davao. Separate receipts shall be used for each loan account. Copies of the official receipt/Special Bank Receipt (SBR) and Payment Return Form (SSS Form ML-1) shall be submitted to the nearest SSS Branch for immediate posting.

B. Sale of shares through SSS:

1. Notarized Special Power of Attorney, accomplished Broker Signature Cards and Broker Application Form, together with the statement of account issued by SSS and authenticated photocopy of SSS digitized ID card (or E-6 acknowledgement receipt stub with two valid ID cards at least one of which is with picture), shall be submitted to any SSS branch nationwide on or before 31 December 2004.
2. The shares of stock will be sold at the prevailing market price within the trading range of the day the broker informs the SSS of the validity of the stock certificate. If the notice is received after 12:00 noon, the sale will be executed on the following trading day or until the order to sell is consummated within the availment period.
3. The following charges shall be deducted from the proceeds of the sale:

A. Broker's Commission
1. Board Lot Transaction : ¼ of 1% to 1.5% of gross sale
2. Odd Lot Transaction : ¼ of 1% to 1.5% or P 20.00 to P150.00 of gross sale or whatever the broker may charge for this transaction
B. Sales Tax : ½ of 1% of gross sale
C. VAT : 10% of Broker's Commission
D. Transfer Charges
1. Cancellation Fee : P 22.00
2. Transfer Fee : P 110.00
3. Service Fee : P 55.00
E. Philippine Central Depository Fee : 0.0000917 of gross sale
F. Securities Clearing Corporation of the Philippines (SCCP Fee): 0.00000917 of gross sale
G. Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE Fee) : 0.00005 of gross sale

Note: All charges are subject to change

4. The net proceeds of the sale shall be applied as payment to the borrower's outstanding stock investment/privatization fund loan account(s). Any balance thereof shall be paid in full by the borrower during the condonation period.

Please be guided accordingly.

CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ
President & CEO

April 15, 2004

US college graduate's bet . . .

From page B1

stand what I was trying to say, but it turned out to be this very old guy who saw the wisdom of connecting the 125 branches to help SSS customers," she said.

That deal was struck within a year of MDI's founding and the SSS project paved the way for MDI's clinching of more network integration projects.

"Over the next six months people started noticing us and we were establishing some credibility in the market," she said.

Projects started to pour in so fast that Myla convinced her boyfriend, Jun Villanueva, to also come back from the Wharton School of Business, and help her manage the company's growth. They got married in 1992 and things continued to look up for the couple and the company.

"We really built the company together. He helped manage the company's growth. I was more of the dreaming type," she said.

And she dreamed big dreams.

From SSS, MDI eventually built some of the most complex data networks in the '90s including those of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., Manila Electric Co. and BA Savings Bank.

Building on MDI success, the Villanuevas moved on in 1995 to put up Microwarehouse, the exclusive distributor of networking and digital lifestyle products including the Palm and 3Com.

It now has 700 dealers nationwide, with Palm as the leading PDA choice for personal and corporate use.

In 1998, Meridian Telekoms was set up, one of the country's first IP broadband wireless carriers, serving Internet users in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao.

Then in 2000, Villanueva transformed Wolfpac, a network security company, into the largest independent mobile applications and content developer in the country.

It was the first to introduce ringtones and logos for cellular phones, allowing it to contribute to the explosion of the mobile phone industry in the country.

Wolfpac has twice been commended by GSM Association, an industry body of 600 mobile operators worldwide, as one of the Best Wireless Applications developers in the world.

The awards are known as the "Oscars" of the mobile world.

Wolfpac now serves Smart, Globe, Orange Hutchison Hong Kong, Marubeni Japan for NTT Docomo, Sonera Zed and soon Maxis Malaysia.

MYLA Villanueva with husband Jun and daughter Bianca

After almost 16 years in the business, Villanueva has come a long way from the cramped office she used to have along Dian Street and she has no regrets about her decision to leave the relative comforts of the United States for the unknown prospects in the Philippines.

The latest feather in her cap is the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year award, given by SGV and Ernst and Young.

She credits her success partly to sheer luck in betting on the right technologies and models as the business landscape continues to transform.

Her latest gamble is to take Wolfpac internationally, making it a worldwide player in mobile content and applications development.

Given the Filipinos' edge in mobile communications, she said the potential for growth is tremendous.

She expressed confidence that the growth prospects would be enough to convince other Filipinos abroad to also come back and take their chances.

Abra village meets need for loofah

From page B1

with kabatiti for fertilizers. When the leaves become too thick, they have to be removed.

When there is too much rain, the young fruits stop growing because the flowers start to rot.

The fruits are harvested when they start to ripen and turn yellow. About five to four pieces are tied together and are soaked in the nearby river for three days.

After soaking, the farmers then strike the kabititi on river rocks to remove its flesh, peel and seeds. These are dried under the sun for a day and bundled for delivery.

There is growing demand for loofah in Abra.

Growers said Sitio Bio has a regular buyer from Metro Manila who comes to collect about five to six truckloads of loofah every year.

The "first class" kabatiti, with thick and soft fibers, is sold for P10 each regardless of size while the "rejects" are sold at P2 apiece.

Julieta Piano, head of the barangay council's committee on agriculture, said the "raw" loofah produced in Lagangilang are sold by middlemen to factories in Metro Manila that in turn export these to Japan, Europe, China, the United States and the Middle East.

She said growers in Sitio Bio prefer to supply raw materials because they could not process the loofah into bath sponges, lampshades, hats and other decorative items due to lack of sewing and pressing machines.

Housewives put Gandara cheese on food map

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

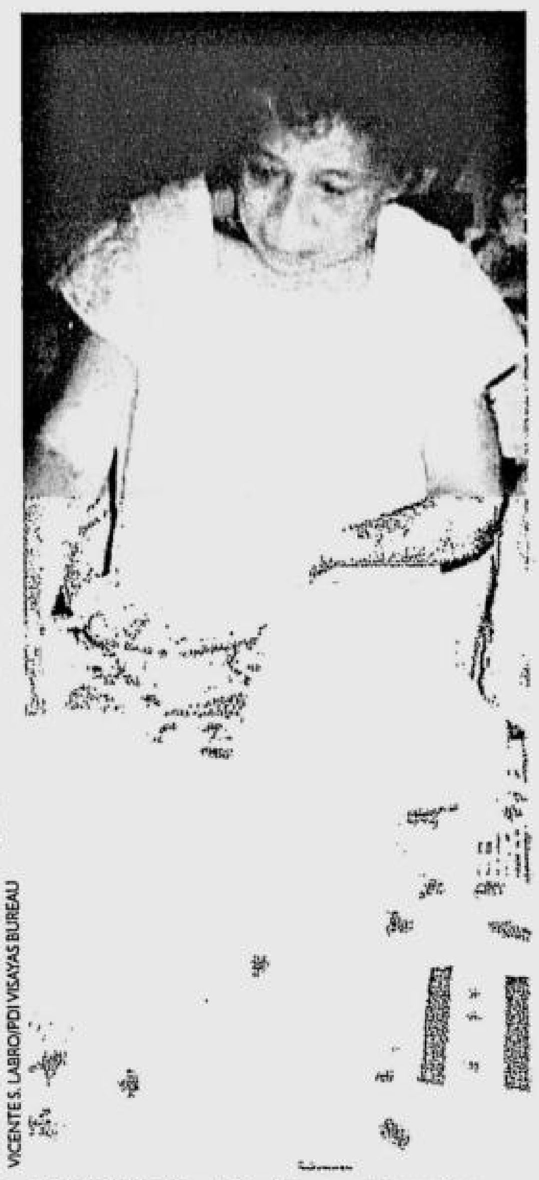
GANDARA, Samar—As the early morning sun starts to shine over the golden rice fields of Barangay Casandig, 69-year-old Gloria Lejas Agravante gets ready to make native cheese.

This has become a ritual for Mana Gloria who has been making the soft white cheese made out of carabao (water buffalo) milk for over 50 years now.

She has to work early to make sure that she gets the freshest of milk, which is the most important ingredient in making this popular food product, locally known as keseyo.

Keseyo-making is a tradition in Gandara, one of the old towns in Samar located about 40 kilometers north of Catbalogan, the provincial capital.

The keseyo makers are not in the town center but in some villages along the Gandara River, like Barangays Casandig and Santo Niño that have vast farms and where farmers use many carabaos to till the land.



VICENTE S. LABRO/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

AGRAVANTE making the popular native cheese known as "keseyo."

Mysterious beginnings

Nobody knows when and who started making keseyo, which has become a tradition passed on for generations by mothers to their daughters in Gandara.

But many believe that the native cheese, like the bulad (dried fish), tinapa (smoked fish) and escabeche (pickled fish) was a popular viand of farmers working in their fields.

The keseyo, which lasts for more than a month before it becomes unfit for human consumption, has also become a favorite "baon" of travelers who go to far places.

Its salty and cheesy taste made keseyo a preferred viand or as a sandwich filling especially for hot "pan de sal."

The cheese making industry has also provided the wives of farmers with extra income for the family.

The women make cheese together. They also use the time to discuss recent events in the village and in nearby places.

It is as much as a social affair as a business venture for the village women, whose husbands are mostly in the field tilling the land.

Younger women also join the group, as helpers and apprentices.

Maintaining quality

Mana Gloria recalls that when she started making keseyo on her own when she was 15, the native cheese cost around three centavos a piece.

Now, it costs P3 a piece. But there are only a few cheese makers left because of the shortage of carabaos.

But the keseyo makers of Gandara have been able to maintain the taste and texture of their famous food product through the years.

"Even as a small child, I watched and helped whenever my mother and grandmother were making keseyo. It has been a part of our life," she says.

While making and selling kaseyo is largely a woman's job, the milking of the carabao has traditionally been left for the men to do.

Mano Anacorito, 61, and husband of Mana Gloria, has to wake up very early to milk their gestating carabao.

He will only go to tend their farm after giving the milk to his wife.

Mana Gloria said that when she started making keseyo there were no gas stoves yet. They used firewood in heating the milk inside a clay pot.

"We were very careful when we rekindle the fire because the ashes would sometimes fly directly into the milk, making the color of the keseyo grayish, which is not good," she said.

Cooperative members

Mano Anacorito and Mana Gloria are among the 156 agrarian reform beneficiaries in the Casandig-Gerale agrarian reform community in Gandara.

The Agravante couple and 42 other Casandig residents are also members of the Casandig Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

Casandig is just three kilometers away from the town proper and could be reached through a road leading to the village.

Mar Ramos, development facilitator of the Department of Agrarian Reform in the area, said the revitalized Casandig Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative has been in operation since 1991 and that it has been adjudged as outstanding cooperative in the province in 1995.

Ramos said seven members of the cooperative are into keseyo making, and that they have recently decided that the cooperative will control the sale of the food product to prevent outside traders from dictating the price of the commodity.

Under this scheme, members are to sell their keseyo to the cooperative that will, in turn, look for buyers. This way, the quality of the product can also be supervised by the cooperative.

Recently, the cooperative "purchased" three female carabaos at P13,000 each from members who were willing to be full-time keseyo makers.

The female carabaos were placed under the care of the previous owners who would have to pay P15,000 for the carabaos within one year.

After full payment, the amount will again be used to buy female carabaos for other keseyo makers.

Mana Gloria was among the initial recipients of the program. She is optimistic that she will be able to pay the P15,000 while at the same time earn money from her keseyo.

Trade secrets

She warned though that keseyo making is not only about processing the milk into cheese. It starts from getting the right female carabao to provide the fresh milk.

She said that she makes sure that the carabao eats the right food so that the milk is creamy white. For example, if the carabao will eat *talahib*, the milk will become yellowish.

This is just one of the many trade secrets that the keseyo makers of Casandig share with the next generation to keep the tradition of making native cheese alive.

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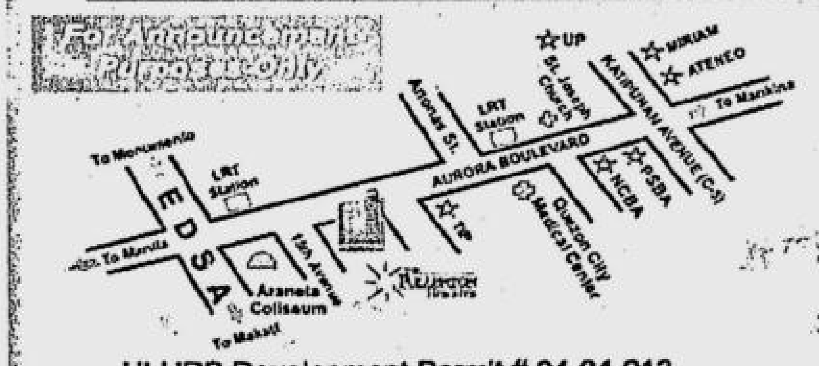

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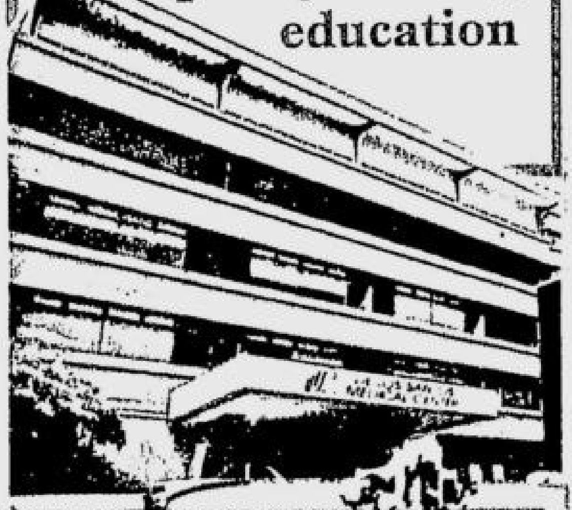

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

OUR VISION UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO FOR AN INTERCONNECTED MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR METRO MANILA COMMUTERS

LRT LINE 1 CAPACITY EXPANSION PHASE II PROJECT

Description: The project aims to provide more transit services by the acquisition of 12 new additional air-conditioned trains, provide more comfort by air-conditioning the existing trains, and improve safety and efficiency by upgrading the signaling, telecommunications, power supply distribution, kworks, fare collection and additional civil works for some s and a depot to accommodate the new trains.
Owner/Proponent: Light Rail Transit Authority
Funding: JBIC Assistance

trac
station

LRT LINE 1 EXTENSION (LINE 6) PROJECT

Description: The project will extend the existing LRT Line 1 southward to the Paranaque City, Las Pinas, and Bacoor by the construction of 12-km. (Phase 1) elevated guideway with 10 stations along its path and additional 44 new train vehicles to service the entire rail line.
Owner/Proponent: Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) and SNC Lavalin
Funding. BOT Public-Private Partnership

LRT LINE 2 MASINAG EXTENSION PROJECT

Description: The project involves the 4-km eastern extension of LRT Line 2 from Santolan Station to Masinag Antipolo with additional three (3) stations at Imelda Ave., Samsonville, and the heavily built-up Masinag Area. Additional five (5) trains will be procured to serve the additional passenger demand. Design parameters will essentially be the same as those of the main line.
Owner/Proponent. DOTC
Funding: BOT Public-Private Partnership

MRT 3 PHASE II

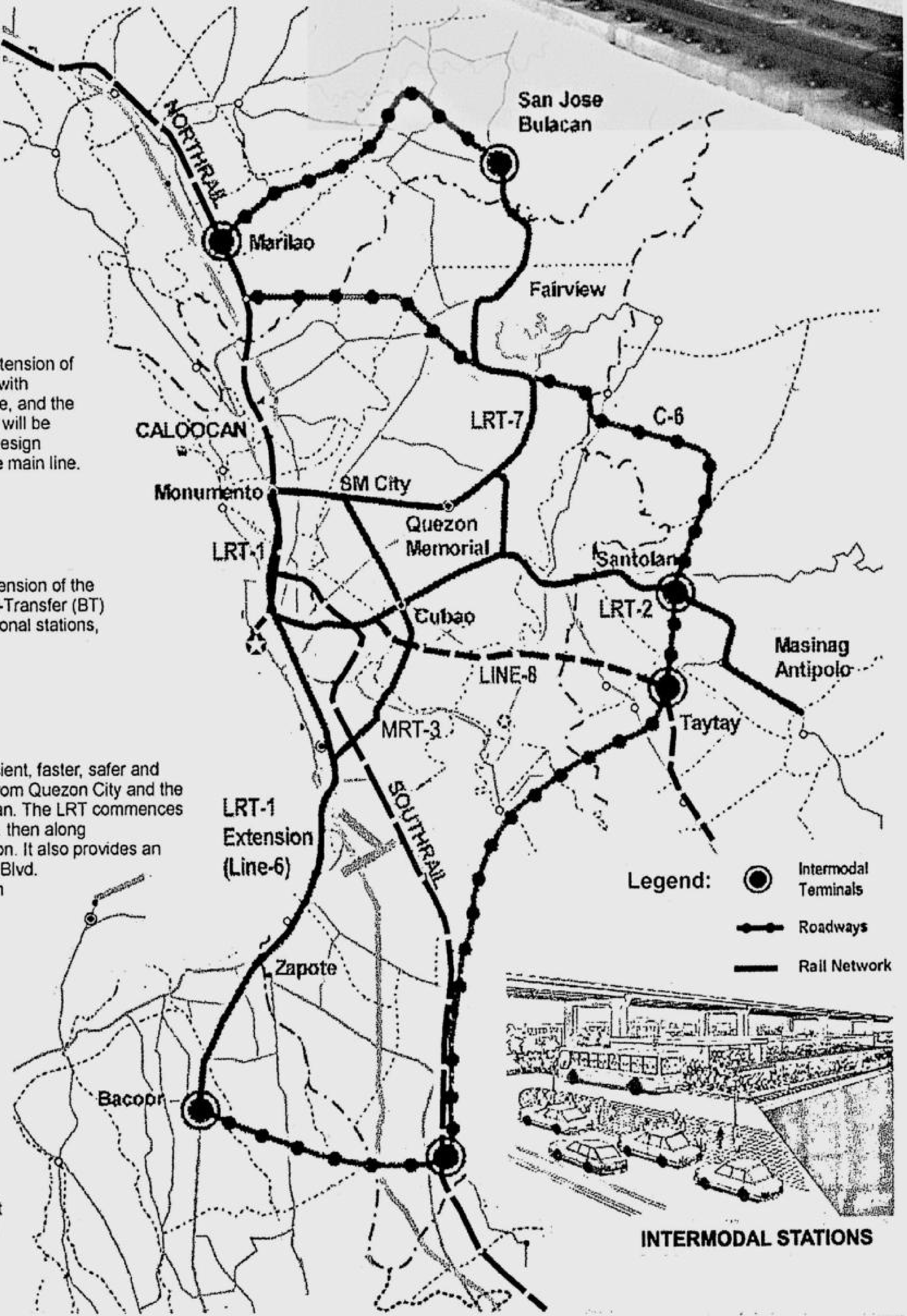
Description: The project is a five (5) km westward extension of the existing 16.9 km EDSA MRT3 Phase I, under the Build-Transfer (BT) scheme. It will entail the construction of three (3) additional stations, namely, Roosebelt, Balintawak and Monumento.
Owner/Proponent. DOTC / MRTC
Funding: BT Public-Private Partnership

LRT 7

Descriptiopn: The project aims to provide a more efficient, faster, safer and pollution free mass transport services for commuters from Quezon City and the adjoining Municipality of San Jose Del Monte in Bulacan. The LRT commences at Tala, passes thru Lagro/ Fairview along Quirino Ave. then along Commonwealth Ave. up to the North Ave. MRT 3 Station. It also provides an elevated rail connection to LRT 2 at Katipunan-Aurora Blvd.
Owner/Proponent. DOTC / Universal LRT Corporation
Funding: BOT Public-Private Partnership

LRT 8

Descriptiopn: The proposed LRT 8 East Rail Line, which will serve as an alternative transport system towards the east of Metro Manila, will have a total length of 84 kms with several tunnel sections (7.8 kms) from Pililla to Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Phase 1 of the project will run for 16.856 kms on elevated double-track guideway from Sta. Mesa, Manila to Taytay, Rizal while the Taytay to Angono, Rizal section will be at-grade for 3.263 kms. Phase 1 (20kms) will serve the densest areas of the cities of Manila, Mandaluyong and Pasig and the towns of Cainta, Taytay and Angono. It will follow the general alignment of Shaw Boulevard and Ortigas Avenue and will entail construction of fourteen (14) stations.
Owner/Proponent. DOTC/ATSL Et.al.
Funding: BOTPublic-Private Partnership



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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

From campus events to ₱1-M promotions

By Michelle V. Remo

TELEVISION, radio and print used to be the only media for advertising.

But as competition became more and more stiff, companies realized that adopting the usual marketing and advertising strategies was no longer enough to thrive in the market.

Because customers' needs and desires tend to be more complex, techniques in wooing them have to become more sophisticated and precise.

This is the reason why so-called below-the-line communication (as opposed to above-the-line ones which are TV, radio and print) has emerged as a popular way to advertise.

"Events management, unlike TV, is more specific. It catches the particular market an advertiser is targeting," says Niles Jordan, administration head at the communications firm Multi-Media Exponents (MME).

He adds that while money spent for airtime is sometimes wasted on audience that is not part of the target market, events management specifically caters to the desired customers, thus ensuring value for money.

MME came at a right time when it first engaged in the business of events management.

When the company was established by six friends in 1997, client-firms were beginning to appreciate the capability of events management in winning customers.

MME was established by a group of fresh graduates from the University of the Philippines.

The four friends—Jordan, Arman Malabanan, Robin Bernabe and Adet Guevarra—are bound together by their common interest in events management, being involved in organizing campus fairs when they were still in college.

Starting out small, both luck and hard work eventually made MME win the deal to promote Johnson & Johnson's teen products. It was their first million-peso venture.

MME organized cheer-leading competitions among schools for J&J.

"The promo was a real success because the event was warmly participated in and it helped a lot in advertising J&J's products," said Jordan.

The strength of the marketing campaign, he said, was that it caught the specific target market of J&J, which are the female teens.

After it broke the ice, MME started to entertain inquiries from large companies.

Now, MME claims to be one of the biggest events management companies in the country, earning P200 million in gross revenue last year.

Among its clients are Red Horse Beer, Smart Communications and Nestle.

"When we entered the business, there were a lot of small groups engaging in events management because it was starting to become popular. We were one of them, but we didn't want to settle for being small," said Jordan.

To better serve the needs of its growing number of clients, MME began diversifying its services.

Aside from events management, MME now also does promo designing and professional marketing.

The latter means providing outsourced marketing, such as hiring medical representatives to market products of pharmaceutical companies and supply for a client's merchandising activities.

Jordan explains that with the advertising needs of each company and its products becoming more complex, it needs the assistance of an outside firm to handle the hassles of the job.

Companies used to have their own advertising people, but firms are starting to realize that employing the services of an external advertising and promo firm will not only be more effective but also much more economical.

After seven years and gaining the lead in below-the-line communication, MME said it now targets to become a leader even in above-the-line communication.

"We want to create more jobs and inspire more people into the business. Not only is this for serving clients for the purpose of revenue. Being in this business is promoting camaraderie, teamwork and friendship," he says.

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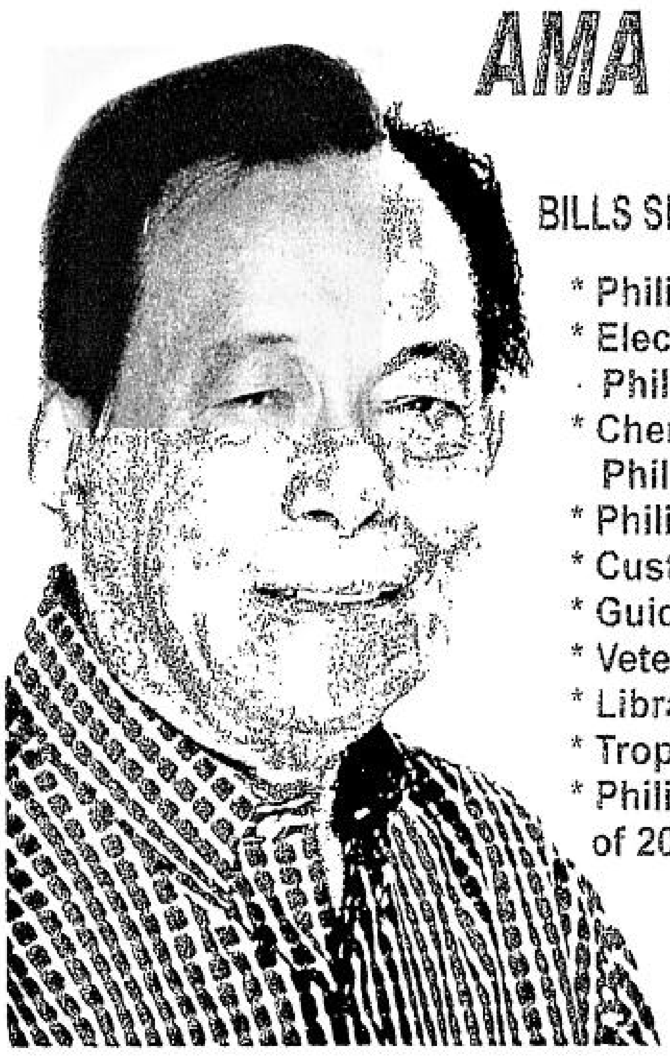

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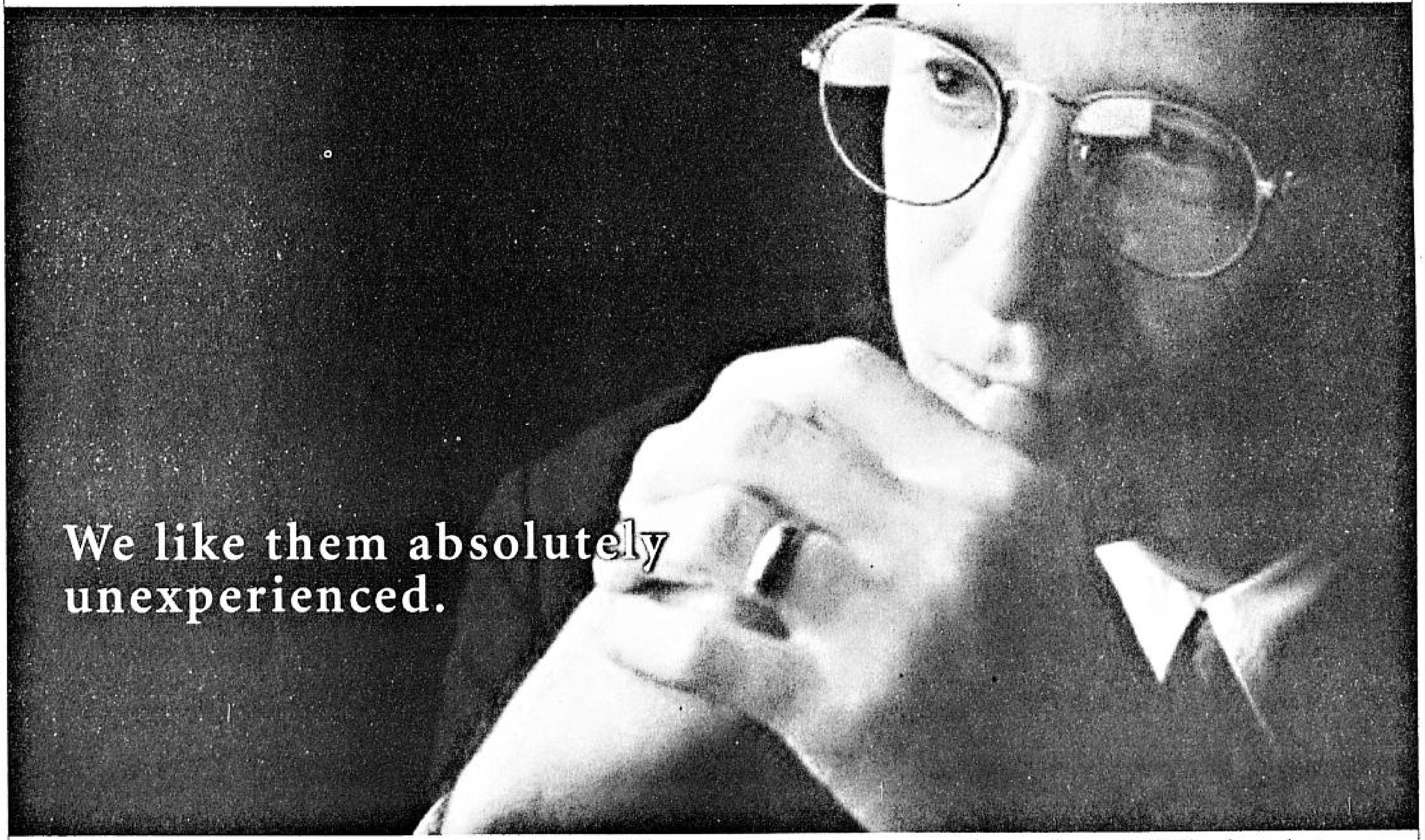
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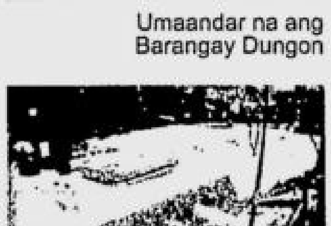

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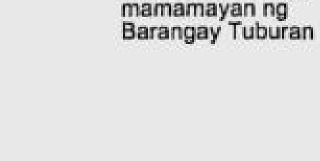

Dumadaloy na ang tubig para sa mga mamamayan ng Barangay Tuburan

Kabilang kami sa mga pinakamahihirap na barangay sa buong bansa nguni't sa sarili naming lakas kami umaasa, sa sarili naming kakayahan kami naniniwala.

Kami-kami ang nagdedesisyon kung ano ang mga pangangailangan ng aming barangay. Sa ilalim ng programang KALAHI-CIDSS, kami-kami ang nag-iisip at gumagawa ng project proposal upang makakuha ng pondo mula sa pamahalaan. Kami-kami ang nagbobotohan at pumipili ng popondohang proyekto. At kami-kami rin ang humahawak ng pera at nagtitiyak na sa proyekto namin napupunta ito.

Dahil sa aming mga natutunan sa KALAHI-CIDSS, kabalikat na kami ng pamahalaan. 'Di na lang umaasa sa kagandahang-loob ng mga nasa itaas, hinihingi na lang ay tapat at epektibong suporta sa aming laban sa kahirapan.

DSWD salutes the thousands of communities that have been part of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan - Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's flagship poverty alleviation project. In its first year, 1,505 barangays nationwide benefited from the KALAHI-CIDSS program, with P 321 million as funding for capacity-building, infrastructure projects and community facilities chosen by the people themselves.

In the recently concluded KALAHI-CIDSS National Conference, the model projects were given awards of distinction. First Place: the Electrification project of Barangay Olave in Enrique Villanueva, Siquijor. Second Place: the Motorized Passenger Pumpboat project of Barangay Dungon in Concepcion, Iloilo. Third Place: The Water System project of Barangay Tuburan in Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte.

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR EN BANC MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HELD ON 13 APRIL 2004

Present:

Chairman	Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.
Commissioner	Rufino S.B. Javier
Commissioner	Mehol K. Sadain
Commissioner	Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner	Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.
Commissioner	Virgilio O. Garcillano
Commissioner	Manuel A. Barcelona, Jr.

xxx xxx xxx

04-0510. IN THE MATTER OF THE MEMORANDA OF ATTY. BARTOLOME J. SINOCRUZ, JR., DIRECTOR IV, ELECTION AND BARANGAY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, RELATIVE TO THE VARIOUS REQUESTS TO DESIGNATE SPECIAL POLLING PLACES FOR THE DISABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS AT THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE POLLING CENTERS FOR EASY AND CONVENIENT ACCESS OF SAID VOTERS IN THE MAY 2004 ELECTIONS AND ATTY. ESMERALDA A. LADRA, ACTING REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, REQUESTING CLARIFICATION/COMMENT ON THE MATTER.

This pertains to the Memoranda dated 26 March 2004 and 04 April 2004, respectively, of Atty. Bartolome J. Sinocruz, Jr., Director IV, Election and Barangay Affairs Department, relative to the various requests to designate special polling places for the disabled and senior citizens at the ground floor of the polling centers for easy and convenient access of said voters in the May 2004 Elections and Atty. Esmeralda A. Ladra, Acting Regional Election Director, National Capital Region, requesting clarification/comment on the matter.

The Memorandum of Director Sinocruz reads:

"This pertains to the fax-letter of Mr. Edgardo R. Bugayongon, RN., the Public Services Offiver IV, Disabled Persons Affairs Division, City Administrator's Office, Mandaluyong City, dated 22 January 2004, to the Honorable Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos and to the Very Urgent Memorandum of Atty. Esmeralda A. Ladra, the Acting Director, NCR, dated 13 March 2004.

In his letter, Mr. Bugayongon requests that for purposes of the 10 May 2004 Elections, the Commission designate rooms in the ground floor to make polling places accessible and convenient for disabled and senior citizen voters of Mandaluyong City. In addition, Mr. Bugayongon requests that he and the members of his staff be deputized to assist the disabled and the senior citizen-voters locate and reach their polling place.

Similarly, Atty. Ladra requests that a special polling place for disabled and senior citizens be designated at the ground floors of polling centers for the easy and convenient access of disabled and senior citizen voters.

For purposes of the 14 May 2001 Elections, the Commission promulgated Minute Resolution No. 01-0778 to address a similar situation. In her Very Urgent Memorandum, Atty. Ladra proposes the adoption of certain procedures (item nos. 1-6) which are similar to the provisions provided under Minute Resolution No. 01-0778. It may be relevant to mention that the afore-cited Minute Resolution was not implemented in the May 2001 Elections.

In connection with the request of Mr. Bugayongon and Atty. Ladra, for purposes of the 14 May 2001 Elections, the undersigned recommends that the herein proposed procedure, as well as the similar procedure provided in Minute Resolution No. 01-0778, be modified.

At this time, almost all election Officers have already finished their Project of Precincts and thus, it would wreck havoc to again require them to come up with another listing for the disabled and senior citizen voters and assigning them to precincts located at the ground floors of polling centers. It would be more practicable simply to identify the precincts wherein disabled and senior citizen voters and locate such precincts on the ground floors of polling centers.

In the matter of the request of Mr. Bugayongon that his office be designated as 'assistors' of the disabled voters of Mandaluyong City, to detract from the perception that the incumbent officials, will use his office to enhance their candidacy, the undersigned recommends that said office be deputized for that purpose but on a non-exclusive basis, along with the local chapter of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and/or other citizens' arm accredited by the Commission, to render assistance to the disabled and senior citizen voters of Mandaluyong City; in other places where there is no PPCRV Chapter, similarly accredited citizens arms may be deputized for that purpose.

For your Honors' consideration."

Likewise, the Memorandum of Acting Director IV Amora-Ladra reads:

"With due respect to EBAD Dir. Bartolome Sinocruz, undersigned respectfully submits this clarification/comment to his memorandum dated 26 March 2004 as regards her proposal to adopt Minute Resolution No. 01-0778, as amended by Resolution No. 4168 dated 9 May 2001 and a photocopy of which was furnished her on 30 March 2004. Thus, she states:

1) It is readily understandable why Minute Resolution No. 01-0778 was not implemented in May 2001 elections because the deferment was 'due to lack of material time'. In contrast, we still have 44 days before the e-day or election day on May 10, 2004.

2) As she understood it, the term 'special polling place for the disabled and senior citizen voters' simply means a special station or voting room at the ground floor of each polling center where these voters can cast their votes. There is therefore no need of assigning a special precinct or precinct number for these voters because they will still be using their designated precinct numbers. Instead, there may only be added one (1) special polling place or station or voting room to be manned by a special BEI constituted for the purpose and which, for purposes of identification specially in the election return to be filled up by that special BEI and canvassing of votes may be called 'SPP' which stands for 'Special Polling Place.'

3) For the EOs to 'identify the precincts wherein disabled and senior citizen voters and locate such precincts on the ground floors of polling centers' as recommended by the Honorable Director may not be that simple and practicable on the following grounds:

2.1) In the NCR, there are already 37,237 precincts with 2nd District, Quezon City having the highest number of 3,305 precincts. A photocopy of our latest statistical report is hereto attached for Your Honor's ready reference. To review therefore every precinct and check whether there is a disabled and/or senior citizen voter listed therein would be too cumbersome, entailing a lot of time and even more manpower to finish the checking before the e-day on May 10, 2004.

2.2) Chances are in most precincts, if not all, there is one or more disabled and/or senior citizen voters so that it would be impossible to place all these precincts at the ground floor in all polling centers.

4) Contrary to the cumbersome procedure as recommended by Dir. Sinocruz, it will be a lot easier to let the disabled and senior citizen voters to submit to the EOs, at least a week before the e-day, a letter to signify their intention to vote in a special polling place or station/ voting room that may be created or assigned to them. Based thereon, the EOs can thus prepare the list for the 'SPP.'

5) To come up with a list of disabled and senior citizen voters will not wreck havoc to the Project of Precincts which the EOs have already finished. As explained above, they will only add one (1) special polling place or station or voting room in a polling center where there are disabled and senior citizen voters who earlier enlisted themselves to vote therein.

With the aforesaid clarification/comment and in order to ensure that the disabled and senior citizen voters will be able to exercise their right of suffrage, undersigned most respectfully reiterates her recommendation that the procedure as embodied in Reso. No. 4168 which amended Min. Reso. No. 01-0778 be adopted for this forthcoming May 10, 2004 elections.

Attached is a photocopy of Resolution No. 4168 for Your Honor's ready reference.

For Your Honor's immediate consideration please."

Considering the foregoing, Commission **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, as follows:

1) To **direct** the Election Officers, in coordination with the proper school or building officials to assign a special polling place for disabled voters at the ground floor of the polling center for the disabled persons' easy access to vote;

2) The Election Officer shall request the barangay officials in their respective areas of jurisdiction to notify the public that a special polling place for disabled voters shall be assigned in each polling center and all such disabled voters shall signify their intent to vote in said specially designated polling place at the Office of the Election Officer before election day;

3) Before election day, disabled voters shall inform the Office of the Election Officer of the precinct number where they are registered as a voter so that the same shall be properly noted;

4) Upon verification, the Election Officer, shall prepare the list of disabled voters indicating therein the precinct where the disabled voters originally registered and shall forward said list to the specially designated polling place for disabled voters in the early morning of election day together with the ballots intended for said disabled voters;

5) On election day, the BEIs of the designated special polling place for disabled voters shall allow them to vote, indicating opposite their names the original precincts where said disabled voters are registered; and

6) The Chairman of the BEI shall indicate in the Minutes of the Voting the names of the disabled voters and the original precincts where they belong.

RESOLVED, moreover, to deputize the Office of the Disabled Persons Affairs Division, City Administrator, Mandaluyong City, for the purpose of assisting disabled and senior citizen voters in said city on a non-exclusive basis, along with the local chapter of the PPCRV and/or other citizens' arm accredited by the Commission.

RESOLVED, finally, that in other places where there are no PPCRV chapters, similarly accredited citizens' arm may be deputized for that purpose.

This resolution shall apply to all requests similarly situated.

Let the election and Barangay Affairs Department implement this resolution, and the Education and Information Department to cause the publication hereof in two (2) newspapers of general circulation for the information and guidance of all concerned.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – May 2, 2004)

Messages

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila

The establishment of the CDA 14 years ago is an indication that we are making headway in the development of cooperatives in the country. I am happy to note that CDA has already registered 64,996 cooperatives nationwide. This shows that the Filipino people are accepting cooperatives as instrument of equity, social justice and sustainable economic development.

I hope that the GMA sa Kooperatiba will go a long way in fostering unity and cooperation among all sectors of our society - - the coop sector, non-government organizations (NGOs), peoples' organizations (POs) and government organizations (GO). United, may we all strive to improve the quality of life of the Filipino people for the growth and progress of our nation through cooperativism. May we realize our vision of a strong Philippine Republic.

Congratulations to all who make the cooperative movement work in our country.

Mabuhay ang kooperatiba! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

* * *

Office of the President
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Quezon City

The launching of the Governance and Massive Advancement in Cooperatives dubbed as "GMA sa Kooperatiba" is indeed a significant occasion not only to the cooperative leaders and members but also to the cooperative movement in general.

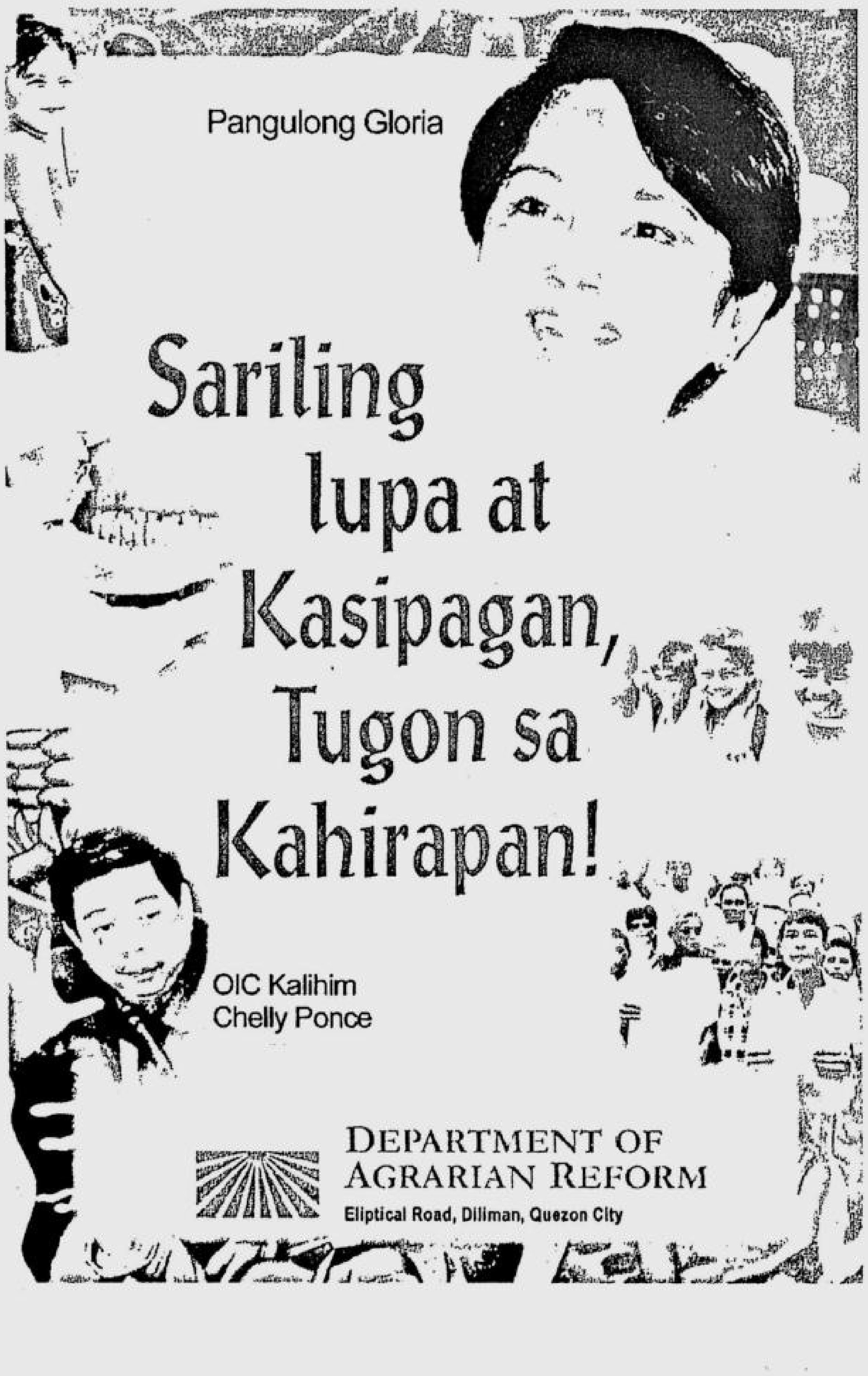
The program is being launched in different parts of the country by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and its developmental partner agencies, the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (Quedancor), National Livelihood Support Fund (NLSF) and National Credit Council of the Department of Finance (NCC-DOF) to bring to the people the programs and services of the government in uplifting their living condition through cooperatives.

The 64,996 registered cooperatives helped a multitude of people all over the country. The services they have rendered to their members had improved their living conditions as well as the economic status of our country..

These, of course, are attributable to the support our government has rendered to the cooperative movement in our country through "GMA sa Kooperatiba". The cooperative movement, I believe, will continue to march and contribute its share to economic prosperity and social justice.

Mabuhay ang kilusang kooperatiba! Mabuhay ang ating bansa!

RUBEN M. CONTI
Chairman


Pangulong Gloria
Sariling lupa at Kasipagan, Tugon sa Kahirapan!
OIC Kalihim Chelly Ponce
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Eliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

GOVERNANCE & MASSIVE ADVANCEMENT IN COOPS

By MERLA FERRERAS

In the light of the vital role of cooperatives in improving the quality of life of the people, particularly the low-income sector of the population in the urban and specially in the countryside, the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) with its developmental partners launched the Governance and Massive Advancement in Cooperatives or aptly called "GMA sa Koope-ratiba".

Initially, the program was launched in Metro Manila held at the Bureau of Soils, Diliman, Quezon City on February 12, 2004. It was followed in Ilagan, Isabela; Legaspi City; Cagayan de Oro City; Malolos, Bulacan; South Cotabato; Tacloban City; Iloilo City; Mandaluyong City; Davao City; Manila and Baguio City. It will also be launched in other regions of the country.

The components of the GMA sa Kooperatiba are:

1. **CDA-Quedancor Cooperative Lending Program** - This is a new financing system that offers credit facilities to cooperatives with viable projects and other businesses. It provides revolving credit line or working capital for production, marketing, processing and related activities of cooperatives including micro-finance projects. It also extends term capital for fixed asset acquisition, construction of warehouses and other facilities needed by the cooperatives.

The GMA sa Kooperatiba aims to institutionalize cooperative development program geared towards effective and efficient governance and regulation of cooperatives.

2. **CDA-National Livelihood Support Fund (NLSF)** – This program is for livelihood and enterprise development for the urban and rural poor. A pool of cooperatives that have organizational and management capability will serve as conduit for this program.

3. **CDA-NCC-DOF – BSP Tie-Up** - This is a multi-agencies collaborative program of the Department of Finance through the National Credit Council (DOF-NCC) and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on the installation of structure and policy system to regulate and supervise cooperatives with savings and credit services. In partnership with the NCC, the CDA will formulate the following: 1) rules and regulations for the safe and sound operations of credit cooperatives and other types of cooperatives; 2) accreditation criteria for cooperative federations and/or associations that will be deputized as supervisors of primary credit cooperatives; and 3) guidelines, procedures and standards for supervision and examination of cooperatives.

4. **CDA Express Lane Registration of Primary Cooperatives** - This is a simplified system of registering primary cooperatives which takes only 2-hour "process-release" of Certificate of Registration counted from the receipt of the completed documents by the CDA Registration Section. However, any misrepresentation of facts and figures stated in the form will render the registration null and void. And the fees paid is non-refundable.

Under this program, accredited cooperative trainers from non-government organizations and schools as well as secondary and tertiary cooperatives are encouraged to participate in this program by conducting Pre-Membership Education Seminar (PMES) for prospective members of a cooperative.

To address the needs of cooperatives nationwide, the CDA at present is implementing its Ten Point Action Agenda. These are:

1. **Development of a Cooperative Code of Good Governance**

In response to the growing demand for effective governance and massive advancement in cooperatives, the CDA shall be re-structured to suit appropriate items for personnel needed in the improvement of the implementation of the cooperative development program in the country.

2. **Establishing a Centralized Cooperative Financial System (CCFS)**

CCFS is a pool of financial resources from among cooperatives to improve access to financial services, enhance the management of information and sharing of the risk across cooperatives; expand savings and capital base; and enforce performance among participating cooperatives.

CCFS is a financial consortium program of the cooperative sector in partnership with the Land Bank of the Philippines, Office of the President, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, Quedancor and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation.

Investment of 23 cooperatives from different regions to CCFS as of December 31, 2003 amounted to 9.585 million while pledges reached 31.835 million pesos. An Interim Project Management Council was created composed of selected investors who serve as the decision - making body of the CCFS. It is chaired by the Land Bank of the Philippines with CDA as the Secretariat. The CCFS was registered with the CDA on January 23, 2004.

3. **Setting of Standards for Cooperatives**

A Standard Chart of Accounts for Credit Cooperatives and Performance Standard for Credit Cooperatives or Coop Pesos had been developed by the CDA and the coop sector together with representatives from other government agencies involved in the promotion, organization and development of cooperatives.

The Standard Chart of Ac-

Turn to page B-10

MINDANAO COOPERATIVE CO

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo presents a plaque to one of the participants of the Mindanao Cooperative Conference held in Cagayan de Oro.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ACPC grants P2.2M to 120 agri credit coops

The competitiveness of cooperatives in delivering credit to agriculture and fisheries is being improved by the Department of Agriculture (DA) to complement its efforts in sustaining access to financing by small farmers and fisherfolk in the wake of growing demand for rural credit.

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), an attached agency of the DA, granted P2.2M to four institutions in Luzon and Mindanao for the conduct of capacity-building programs to professionalize and improve the management of 120 cooperatives that provide agricultural credit.

These include a tie-up program with Dr. Wilfredo David, Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) for the implementation of "Training Courses for Board of Directors of Agri-Based Credit Granting Cooperatives for Effective Governance" for officers from various farmers and fisherfolk coops nationwide.

Other recipients of the grants include the Surigao Sur Organization for Human Development, Inc. (SSOFHDEV) for the conduct of a capacity-building program entitled "Supporting Farmers and Fisherfolk Organizations' Micro-Enterprise Development Initiatives" for 14 small farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives; the Quezon Federation & Union of Cooperatives (QFUC) for the "Cooperative Continuous Education Training Project" for 52 cooperatives in the Lamon Bay, Central Quezon, and Bondoc Peninsula areas; and the Palacian Economic Development Association, Inc. (PEDAI) in Quirino for its Institution-Building (IB) Program for the PEDAI Micro-Credit for Quirino Province. The PEDAI program now boasts of 30 coops implementing the micro-finance, micro-lending, and operations strategies that were taught through the IB training programs.

"Cooperatives have been considered as important instruments to countryside development. However, in the Philippines, only a few, agri-based cooperatives have actually contributed to the progress of smallholders. Not many cooperatives have become successful mainly due to the lack of strategic, management, and credit skills among their officers and members. The cooperatives have not been sustainable, which has adversely affected access to credit by small farmers and fisherfolk, in general," Executive Director Jovita Corpuz of the ACPC emphasized during the ACPC-UPLB IB Program Launch.

."Providing credit alone to these institutions has not worked. ACPC believes that the implementation of institution-building (IB) programs will go well together with the provision of credit to small farmers and fisherfolk organizations to improve their long-term position. By improving and strengthening their competitiveness and enhancing their sustainability, cooperatives will be able to more satisfactorily meet the demands of the agricultural market landscape," she added.

Over the last twelve years, total agricultural production loans from banks alone have grown by an average of 50 percent per year. In 2002, demand for agricultural loans reached P488 billion, or an increase of 18% compared to the previous year.

Encouraging the management staff of Quezon Federation & Union of Cooperatives to aim for maturity and professionalism to be able to provide its primary cooperatives and external clients the training necessary in achieving its goals and objective for the small farmers of Quezon, ACPC Executive Deputy Director Ramon Yedra (third from left) concluded in Lucena City, Quezon the transfer of the first tranche of the P361,125.00 ACPC grant fund assistance to the federation for its institutional building program entitled "Cooperative Continuous Education Training Project".

Thru capacity-building component

ACPC to shore up capacity of coops

The Department of Agriculture will directly assist lending institutions owned by farmers and fisherfolk so that they may participate in retailing loans under the Department's financing program for agricultural modernization.

The DA-attached Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) will integrate into the Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program (AMCFP) an Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) component that aims to strengthen the capability of cooperatives, coop banks, credit unions, rotating savings and credit associations and NGOs owned by farmers and fisherfolk to deliver credit services to their members, who are mostly comprised of farmers, fishermen and their household members.

The ACPC is the Oversight Body of the AMCFP, which was created through the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) to serve as the government's centralized financing program in support of agricultural modernization. The AMCFP will replace the inefficient directed credit programs (DCPs) implemented by various government non-financial agencies.

Under the implementing guidelines of the AMCFP, retail loans are to be coursed through private rural financial institutions, such as rural banks, coop banks, cooperatives and NGOs. However, the viability of many rural financial institutions was severely affected by the 1997 financial crisis and the El Niño dry spell of 1998. Cooperative banks, for instance, have since been continuously dwindling in number. Eight out of 54 coopbanks registered with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) have already closed shop as of June 2003.

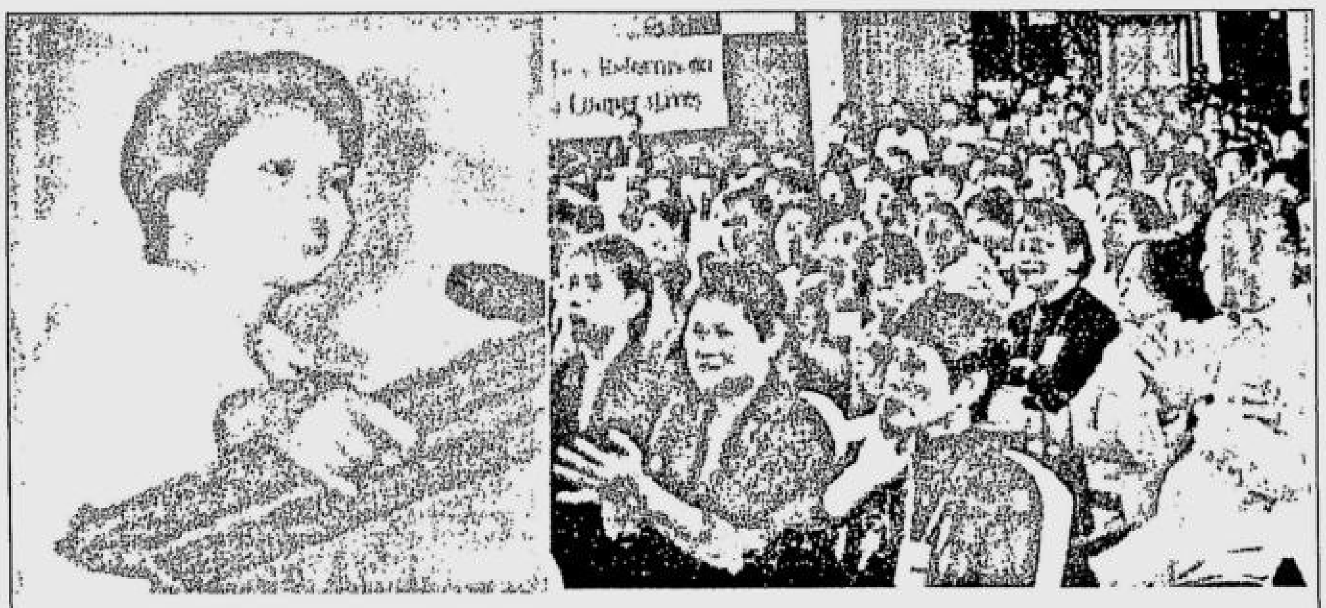
The integration of the ICB component into the AMCFP was agreed upon by the management of ACPC together with representatives of the Council during the agency's Convergence Planning Workshop held last month in Baguio City. The entry points of the ICB intervention will be on the leadership, governance and management processes of the farmer- and fisherfolk-owned financial institutions. ACPC will provide grants and enter into joint projects with donor agencies and national/regional coop networks for management training, capital and savings mobilization activities, management information systems projects and organization, establishment and strengthening of the cooperative banks and other rural financial institutions. The ICB for the AMCFP will include an assessment of the ICB needs of farmer cooperatives and program retailers. The ACPC will also design a monitoring and evaluation framework for the ICB program.

Republic Act 7607 or the Magna Carta of Small Farmers mandates ACPC to provide subsidies for the education and training of small farmers and to promote the establishment of strong and viable farmer coops, coopbanks and other rural financial intermediaries.

ACPC Executive Director (second from left) hands over to Mr. Augusto Sumalde (third from left), Vice Chancellor of the University of the Philippines, Los Banos (UPLB), the check representing the P909 thousand grant for the implementation of the "Agricultural Credit and Cooperatives Institute (ACCI)/UPLB – ACPC Training Courses for the Board of Directors of Agri-based Credit Granting Cooperatives for Effective Governance" on February – November 2004. The ACCI, College of Public Affairs (CPAf) of UPLB will conduct seven courses for the training which will be participated in by 25 officers from various farmers and fisherfolk coops nationwide. Also in the photo are, from left, Ramon Yedra, Deputy Executive Director, ACPC; Severino Medina, Jr., Director, ACCI-CPAf, UPLB; Anselma Manila, ACCI-CPAf, UPLB; and Rolando Bello, ACCI-CPAf, UPLB

ACPC grants Surigao Sur Organization for Human Development Inc. (SSOFHDEV) P590,000 for the conduct of capacity-building program for 14 small farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives aimed at improving credit access for their agri and fishery enterprises. The program, "Supporting Farmers and Fisherfolk Organizations' Micro-Enterprise Development Initiatives will run from January to November 2004. Radigundo Rivas (third from right), Executive Director of SSOFHDEV and the other participants welcome Adona Manzanal of ACPC (third from left) during the Stakeholders' Orientation and Project Launch in Mabua, Surigao del Sur.

ACPC Executive Director Jovita M. Corpuz (second from left) gives to Elizabeth Nicolas (second from right), Program Manager of the Quirino-based Palacian Economic Development Association, inc. (PEDAi), the check representing the last tranche of the P395,000 grant for its institution-building (IB) program on micro-credit for Quirino province. The PEDAi now boasts of 30 cooperatives implementing the micro-finance, micro-lending, and operations strategies that were taught through the IB training programs.



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo addresses participants of the Mindanao Cooperative Conference held in Cagayan de Oro City on March 6, 2004. The event coincided with the launching of the GMA sa Kooperatiba in Mindanao.

Quedancor, CDA join hands in developing rural coops

Recognizing the importance of cooperatives as a key pillar in the development of the country's agricultural sector, the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR) has recently signed an agreement with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) in offering credit facilities necessary for the funding of viable projects of cooperatives and other related businesses.

QUEDANCOR highly considers the role of cooperatives as its partners in bringing credit to individual households, businesses and micro-enterprises that in turn will result in the generation of more livelihood activities that will help augment their incomes.

The joint program, the QUEDANCOR-CDA Cooperative Lending Program, states three objectives in its goal to enhance the status of cooperatives: promote growth and development of cooperatives and augment the income of members; enable cooperatives to expand their business operations and directly connect them to supermarkets and other market outlets; and provide credit assistance and livelihood opportunities for credit worthy cooperatives with viable projects, thereby fostering robust economic activities in the rural areas.

Among the provisions stated is the loanable amount, which depends on the project cost/financial condition of the borrower or to be determined by the Quedan Operations Officer- Credit Assessment (QOO-CAG). However, micro-finance projects of cooperatives shall be given priority in the allocation of the credit funds. The loan for land acquisition shall be 80% of the market value but not to exceed P3.0 million.

The program also offers an 8% interest rate per annum regardless of the mode and term of payment.

Since its implementation last January, the program has granted a loan of P200,000.00 to one cooperative, the Lumbang Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Lumbang, Lipa city, Batangas last February 18, 2004. There are also 27 cooperatives applying for loans with 21 coops having their requests being processed.

National Livelihood Support Fund
enjoins
all **cooperatives and cooperative banks** in good standing to be involved in a new initiative to ensure microfinance services for the enterprising poor.

Be a part of the
Governance & Massive Advancement in Coops or the 'GMA sa Kooperatiba'

At NLSF, we direct our best efforts at empowering the poor and assisting small and medium enterprises in poverty areas nationwide. We provide livelihood credit, capability building interventions and community development services through rural financing institutions, cooperatives, NGOs, POs, and local government units.

PROGRAMS

Microfinance

- Livelihood Credit Assistance Program (LCAP): for KALAHI agrarian reform zones
- Youth Entrepreneurship Financing Facility Program (YEFFP): for out-of-school youth
- Special tie-up programs (STUP) (e.g. with LGUs)
- Credit Assistance to Coconut Farmers
- OWWA-NLSF Livelihood Development Program for OFWs (LDPO)

Community Development Services

Medium term financing for LGUs' priority minor infrastructure projects

SME Financing

In support of the One Town, One Product, P1 Million program of President GMA

Capability-Building Services

Support mechanisms to complement the agency's credit delivery and SME financing to be instituted through:

- Community Business Development Center (CBDC)
- Accelerating Capacities on Credit Extension Services Outreach to Agri-Agra Households (ACCESS)
- Philippines-Australia Technical Support for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (PATSARRD)

National Livelihood Support Fund
An agency attached to LANDBANK
4/F Hanston Bldg, Emerald Avenue Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel Nos 914-7290 to 97, 631-2955 Telefax 631-2954 E-mail nlsf@nlsf gov ph

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Special Supplement on GMA sa Kooperatiba

GMA SA KOOPERATIBA... *from page B-8*

counts for Credit Cooperatives will be used in the accounting system of credit cooperatives while the Performance Standard for Credit Cooperatives or Coop Pesos will be used to evaluate the performance of credit cooperatives in terms of compliance to administrative requirements, management and financial performance.

At present, the Coop Pesos is under review for refinements. Standard Chart of Accounts and Performance Standard for other types of cooperatives are still underway for preparation.

4. Cooperative Business Development Program

The program aims to develop the business activities of cooperatives through the preparation and use of the following:

- A comprehensive directory of cooperative products for business matching with other coops and people interested in cooperative products.
- Packaged an integrated system of production, processing and marketing to increase value adding activities of the cooperative, using fish as a product of concern.
- Employed networking with local government units (LGUs), national government agencies (NGAs) engaged in developing new technologies using cooperatives as mechanism for transferring technology to improve rice productivity.

5. Program for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperatives

Promotion, organization, and development of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperatives. The program aims to organize cooperatives among agrarian reform beneficiaries for purposes of managing and owning lands and undertaking economic activities.

For this, the CDA prepared an Integrated Livelihood Program for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperatives including Poverty Alleviation Measures for possible funding by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for its implementation.

6. Cooperative Education Program

The program aims to develop and produce the following:

- Modular and ladderized curriculum for training and continuing cooperative education;
- Competency-based standards for cooperatives;
- Cooperative Human Resource Development Program; and
- Social Auditing for Cooperatives

7. Strengthening of Primary Cooperatives, Federations and Unions

The program aims at the consolidation, merger, amalgamation of cooperatives with overlapping areas of operation and business functions to strengthen the basic unit of cooperative organizations through resource and benefit sharing.

8. Cooperative Marketing Program

This is to encourage intercoop trading between producers and consumers cooperatives to expand their business operations in terms of rice, vegetables, meat products and consumer products and directly connect them to supermarkets and other market outlets

9. Conversion of Electric Cooperatives into Member-Owned Capital Stock Cooperatives

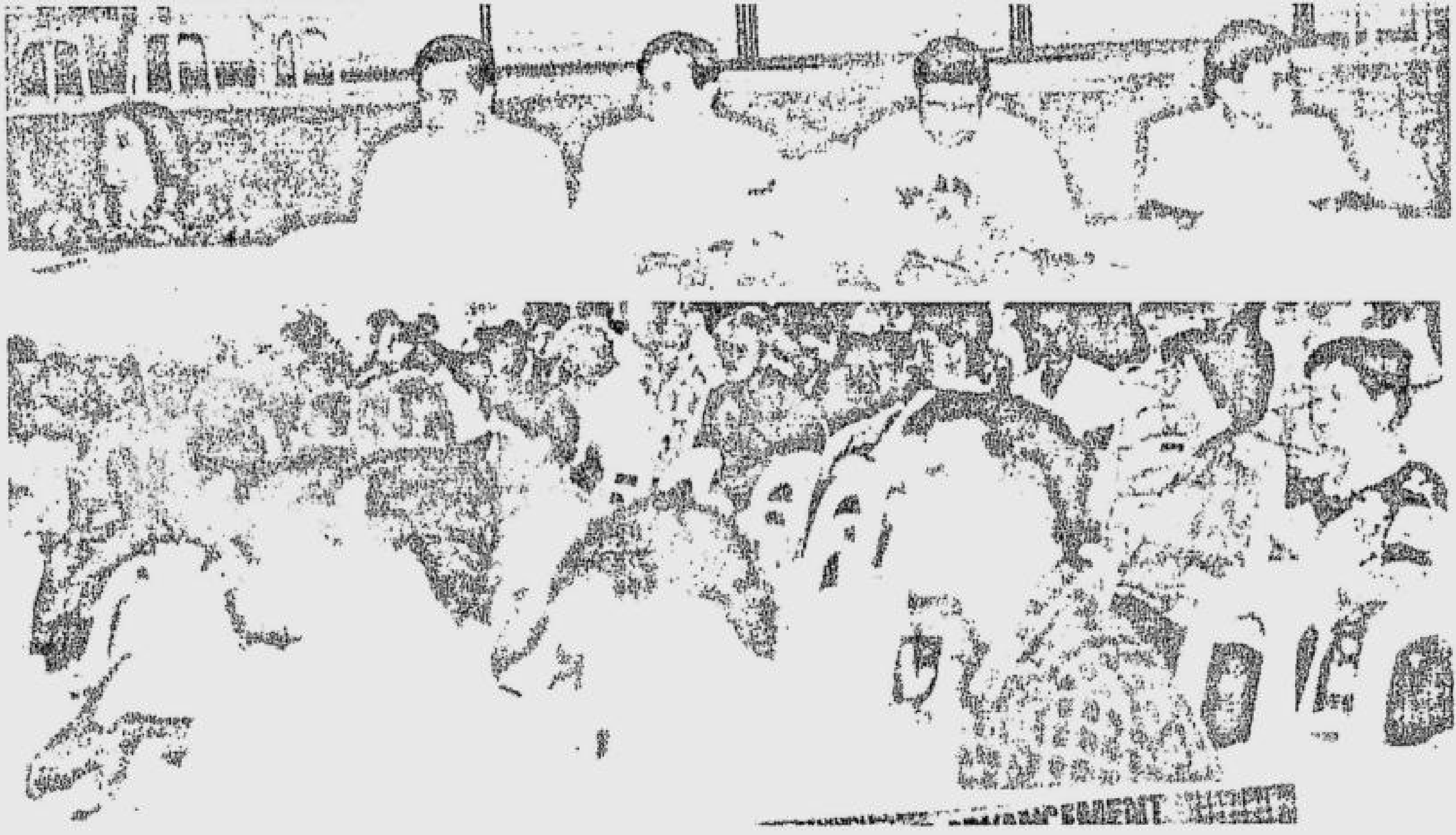
The program's main phase is the development of the Supplementary Credit Program for Rural Electric Cooperatives which will provide finance and community development project assistance/ services by giving these cooperatives preferential rates and shares in gains or net surplus.

The SCP will eventually be transferred into a Cooperative Finance Corporation which will provide finance services to RECs. At present, there are five electric cooperatives registered with the CDA since the program started in 1996. They continue to operate up to this date.

10. Promotion, Organization and Development of Workers' Cooperatives

This program aims to organize workers cooperatives to secure better pay for the members of cooperatives and eventually own and manage the business organizations they are working in.

With these programs on cooperativism, it is hoped that the vision of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to have peace and prosperity for our people and country will be realized.



Launching of the GMA sa Kooperatiba at Hiyas Convention Center, Malolos, Bulacan on March 10, 2004. It was attended by no less than 1,000 cooperative leaders and members from different cooperatives in Region III. Seated in top photo are, from left: CDA Administrator Virginia A. Teodosio, ASEC Arthur B. Pinili, CDA Chairman Ruben M. Conti, Bulacan Vice Governor Aurelio Flamenco, and CDA Region I Acting Director Manuel Mar.

CDA adopts express lane to hasten coop registration

Ruben M. Conti, Chairman of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) announced that an easy and quick way of registering, primary cooperatives through an express lane method is now being implemented by the CDA.

According to Conti, the new method in registering cooperative is being implemented to make it easier to register cooperatives for those interested to form a business through cooperatives. In this way, people interested in cooperatives and pooled their resources together can easily use cooperative to improve their living condition.

Under the new system, to register a primary cooperative, one has to secure express lane forms after name verification/reservation with a service fee of P30.00. The express lane forms are consist of pro-forma articles of cooperation, by-laws, treasurer's affidavit, undertaking to change cooperative name, undertaking to submit reportorial requirements, notes to articles of cooperation and economic survey available in all CDA extension offices.

The accomplished documents in four copies together with the name verification slip, bonds of accountable officers, certificate of pre-membership education seminar from accredited institutions or the CDA and endorsement letter from other government agencies, if necessary, must be complied with added Conti.

Certificate of Registration can be issued within two hours for as long as the documents are found to be complete and in order and upon payment of registration fee equivalent to one tenth of one percent of the authorized share capital but not lower than P1,000.00

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

TBWA network dominate Asia Adfest

TBWA was the most awarded network at the 7th Adfest Awards held in Pattaya, Thailand, winning a total of 23 awards including Best of Show in both the print and outdoor categories. TBWA\Singapore was named Agency of the Year and TBWA\Asia Pacific as Agency Network of the Year.

In the print category, TBWA\Singapore won Best of Show with their campaign for Sphere Action Figures. They also received 2 Golds, I Silver and 2 Bronzes.

In the Outdoor category, TBWA\Japan picked up Best of Show for the adidas "Human Billboard". The Agency also won 1 Gold and 3 Bronzes. TBWA\Shanghai was awarded 3 Bronzes in the print category, becoming the most awarded China agency, while TBWA\Thailand and Creative Juice\G1, also of Thailand, won 2 Bronzes.

The local TBWA agency, TBWA\Santiago Mangada Puno, scored one of the Philippines' best-ever performances with 3 Bronzes for the adidas "Anti-Fake" print and outdoor campaign series.

With over 3,400 entries into the Adfest this year, the levels of competition are rising and it is fast becoming known as the Cannes Festival of the Asia-Pacific region. For information about the Adfest and to view their official results, please visit their website at www.asiapacificadfest.com

TBWA\Worldwide (www.tbwa.com), part of the Omnicom Group Inc, is one of the world's top ten agency networks. The network has 235 offices in 75 countries, and approximately 8,100 employees worldwide. Major global clients include Absolut, adidas, Apple, Beiersdorf, Haagen-Dazs, Masterfoods, Nissan and Sony PlayStation.

Omnicom Group Inc. (NYSE-OMC) (www.omnicomgroup.com) is a Leading global marketing and corporate communications company. Omnicom's branded networks and numerous specialty firms provide advertising, strategic media planning and buying, direct and promotional marketing, public relations and other specialty communications services to over 5,000 clients in more than 100 countries.

EQUITABLE CARD WINS MARKETING AWARD FROM MASTERCARD

Equitable CardNetwork Inc wins for the first time the prestigious Marketing Award from MasterCard International. Equitable Card's Switch and Double advertising campaign, which offered double credit limit to non-Equitable cardholders who applied for an Equitable MasterCard during the promo period, garnered the Gold Award for Best Print Advertising in 2003. On hand to receive the marketing award from MasterCard's vice president and country manager for the Philippines, vice president Jose Rene 'Poch' Villa-Real, Equitable Card's senior executive vice president Eugenio K. Hernando. Also, present to witness this momentous occasion were Equitable Card's Card sales and marketing - retail group headed by vice president Fulgencio C. Rana Jr. and ably assisted by its card sales and marketing - retail manager, Cristina A. Balingit.

M/V MAHARLIKA SIETE'S MAIDEN VOYAGE

Shown during the event are (from left): Christopher Pastrana, president and CEO of Philharbor Ferries & Port Services Inc; Augustin Bengson, Undersecretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications; Admiral Gosingan, Philippine Coast Guard; Assec Anne Lontoc, LTO; Mary Ann Pastrana, Philharbor Ferries & Port Services Inc; Presidential Priority Project Overseas Development Assistance Program Secretary Marita Jimenez; Governor Florencio Miraflores of Aklan; Len Bautista, LTFRB; Oscar Sevilla, Marina administrator; and Assec Consuelo Suello.

HABITAT FOUNDER LAUNCHES PARTNERSHIP WITH AYALA

Habitat for Humanity International founder and president Millard Fuller concluded a three-day visit to the Philippines in March by helping the Integrated Kalahi (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan) ng Ayala in Makaturing Street, Mandaluyong City. The project, in collaboration of the Ayala group of companies, Habitat for Humanity Philippines, and the Makaturing Neighborhood Association Inc, empowers with an array of services for long-term community development.

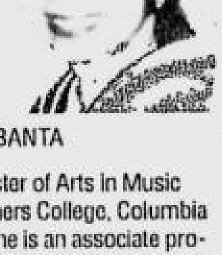
CARLO'S PIZZA OPENS AT ONE DESTINATION, TAGAYTAY CITY

Carlo's Pizza is now open to serve great pizzas at One Destination, Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City. Shown are (standing from left): the board of directors, Glen Palencia, president; Eric Cuevo, executive vice president; Irma Bernabe, corporate treasurer; Mito Barretto, vice president; and Joel Callao, marketing director

Teen Sewing Workshop

SINGER, the brand synonymous to sewing machines, dares all fearless teens to try their hand on sewing as it holds a Teen Sewing Workshop starting May 4, at Singer Sewing Training Center, Singer Showroom in Port Area, Manila. The valued activity offers basic to advance sewing for ages 12 to 20. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 12 noon or 2 to 5 p.m. in the afternoon. Course fee is P1,200 inclusive of materials. The Teen Sewing Workshop hopes to cultivate teen creativity via exposure to colors, texture, and design at the same time, develop self confidence by accomplishing a project where they have put in valuable time and effort. For inquiries or reservations, please call 527-9957 (look for Miles) or 527-1871 (look for Corinne)

Banta awarded by UST



BANTA

ROSE Marie Banta, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies, Cum Laude, by the University of Sto. Tomas at the Solemn Investiture ceremonies last March 31. An Assumption College graduate, Dr. Banta also received her Bachelor of Music degree from Sta. Isabel College and a Master of Arts in Music Education degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York USA. She is an associate professor at the UST Conservatory of Music and an officer of the Kodak Society of the Philippines and Philippine Society for Music Education

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2004

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RESIDENTIAL

	QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
1.	3-Sty Res'l w/ offc space Lot-1 B. Alibangbang cor Bakawan Sts. Veterans Vill. LA-58.30/FA-166	2,915,000
2.	2 Sty. Res'l./ Lot-1-A, Unit-B Agnes St, Ideal Subd, Commonwealth. LA-80 / FA-145	1,300,000
3.	Resl. Apt-10 Dr, 2-Sty /Castro Compound, Sta. Lucia, Novaliches. LA-250 / FA-369	2,248,000
4.	4 Sty H&L / # 394-A Sangandaan, N'liches LA-218/FA-721	4,100,000
	MAKATI CITY	**MIN BID**
5.	Condo Unit/Unit-1407 & 1408 14/F, BSA Mansion,Benavidez St,Legaspi Vill/Total FA-71.733	3,588,000
	SAN JUAN	**MIN BID**
6.	3-Dr /2-Sty. Res'l Apt /# 22 A Bonifacio St, Brgy. Kabayanan L.A.-393 / F.A.-300	6,965,000
	ANTIPOLO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
7.	Lot-20 Blk -17, Jerusalem St. Palmera Hills-5, Uulan /LA-120	341,000
8.	Lot / L-23 Blk-10 / LA – 266 Cottonwood Hts, Brgy. Bayugo	1,435,000
9.	Lot / L-21 Blk-2 / LA – 355 Cottonwood Hts, Brgy. Bayugo	1,641,000
10.	Lot / L-47 B-18 Park Ridge Est.-3 (via Valley Golf) LA-611	1,655,000
11.	Lot/L-17 Blk-1,Beverly St,Sta. Barbara-1, Luxury Est. Mission Hills, Brgy Colaique/ LA-1,021	2,750,000
	CALOOCAN CITY	**MIN BID**
12.	Res'l lot / Lot-5 Blk-5, Myrna Subd,Brgy Llano/Net LA-1,396	1,255,000
	PARAÑAQUE CITY	**MIN BID**
13.	Condo / U-21-D, Cleveland Twr Asiaworld City/ FA-363.94	9,000,000
	BULACAN	**MIN BID**
14.	Lot / # 31 Maria St., Divine Mercy Subd, Bo. Sta. Rosa Marilao / L.A. - 240	775,000
15.	Lot-47 Blk-23 Verde Hts, Brgy. Gaya-Gaya, San Jose Del Monte. L.A.-40 / F.A. - 29	206,000
	TAGAYTAY CITY	**MIN BID**
16.	Lot / Lot 8 Calamba-Tagaytay Rd,Brgy. Tolentino-West (over Looking Taal Lake) L.A.-2,156 (With Lis Pendens)	28,028,000
	CAVITE – Naic, Brgy. Palangue Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	**MIN BID**
17.	Lot 1 Blk. 24 / L.A.- 1,624	2,420,000
18.	Lot 9 Blk. 19-B / L.A.- 2,247	3,349,000
19.	Lot 6 Blk. 18 / L.A.- 1,468	1,821,000
20.	Lot 5 Blk. 19 / L.A.- 964	1,196,000
21.	Lot 6 Blk. 19 / L.A.- 1,194	1,481,000
22.	Lot 4 Blk. 19-A / L.A.- 2,953	3,662,000
23.	Lot 6 Blk. 19-A / L.A.- 1,249	1,549,000
24.	Lot 5 Blk. 19-B / L.A.- 3,052	3,785,000
25.	Lot 8 Blk. 19-B / L.A.- 1,890	2,344,000
26.	Lot 10 Blk. 19-B / L.A.- 2,245	2,784,000
	CAVITE – Springville, Molino	**MIN BID**
27.	L-10-B B-2, Rimas St., West Phase – 1 / L.A. – 71	291,000
28.	L-20-A B-2, Rimas St/ L.A.-75	308,000
29.	L24 B-13 Agoho St., Central Phase – 2 / L.A. – 70	319,000
30.	L-11-A B-22, Dayap St., West Phase – 2 / L.A. - 80	328,000
31.	L-3-B B-10, Pina St., West Phase – 1 / L.A. - 85	348,000
32.	L-3 B-2, Chico St., West Phase – 2 / L.A. - 183	750,000
33.	L-8 B-12, (near Agoho St), Central Phase-2 / L.A. – 180	620,000
	CAVITE	**MIN BID**
34.	L-16 B-1, Ph -1, Mla South Woods Res'l Estate, Baybay, Carmona / LA-1,224	4,604,000
	VALENZUELA	**MIN BID**
35.	2 Sty Res'l T Hse / Unit-22 Sunnser Comp'd, Chico St., Gen T Deleon. LA-42.7 / FA-51	356,000
36.	2 Sty,Bldg/L-23-A-4, N Urutia St, Palasan. LA-670 / FA-694	2,070,000
37.	Lot / L-551-A-2-A-3, Pineda Compd,Bonifacio St,Canumay – East / LA - 1,114	2,241,000
38.	2 Sty. Hse. & lot / Lot-1, 2 & 3 Blk-7 cor. of Aster, Wistaria & Forsythia Sts,De Castro Subd. Bagbaguin/TLA- 650 / FA- 547	6,660,000
	TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
39.	Agro - Ind'l Lot / Lot 3871-D S. Maragul, Tibag / LA-10,001	2,321,000
	NUEVA ECIJA	**MIN BID**
40.	Lot 46-C-1 to 46-C-28, Km #96 Castellano,Sn.Leonardo/LA-5,000	1,480,000
	# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili, Cab. City)	
41.	Lot 3-A-6/LA-2,071/NLA-1,820.62	240,000
42.	Lot 3-A-5/LA-2,071/NLA-1,847.61	241,000
43.	Lot 3-A-4/LA-2,071/NLA-1,847.88	241,000
44.	Lot 3-A-3/LA-2,071/NLA-1,848.17	241,000
45.	Lot 3-A-2/LA-2,071/NLA-1,848.36	241,000
46.	Lot 3-A-1/LA-2,071/NLA-1,839.88	241,000
47.	Lot 2-B/LA-2,619/NLA-2,338.68	773,000
48.	Lot 2-A/LA-2,822/NLA-2,535.36	833,000
49.	Lot 2-D/LA-2,250/NLA-2,006.08	1,127,000
50.	Lot 2-C/LA-2,616/NLA-2,345.61	1,311,000
51.	Lot 2-F/LA-2,250/NLA-2,008.88	1,610,000
52.	Lot 2-E/LA-2,249/NLA-2,007.48	1,610,000
53.	2 Storey resl / Lot 2-G LA-2,384/NLA-1,881.9/FA-138	2,413,000
	LAGUNA-Poblacion, Cabuyao	**MIN BID**
54	2 Sty. Thse / Unit-2 Bellbart Elsol Villas T'hms LA-54/FA-55	576,000

RESIDENTIAL

	LAGUNA-Poblacion, Cabuyao	MIN BID
55.	2 Sty Thse / Unit-4 Bellbart Elsol Villas T'hms LA-54/FA-55	576,000
	MUNTINLUPA – Victoria Hms.	**MIN BID**
56.	L-125 B-3-A,Almond St/LA-436	872,000
57.	L-127 B-3-A,Almond St/LA-459	918,000
58	L-19 B-3-I,Jasmine St /LA-713	1,426,000
	ANGONO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
59.	L-6 Blk-2 Mills St, Sta. Monica Classic Est.,Ph-3,Mission Hills Mabebang Parang (via Antipolo) LA- 540	1,677,000
	ISABELA	**MIN BID**
60.	Lot/Lot 8833-D, Provincial Rd Bacarena,San Mateo/LA-3,673	700,000
	BICOL – Legaspi, Albay	**MIN BID**
61.	Lot 54-E, F & G, M. Marquez Extn., CRB Subd / L.A. - 3,000	1,536,000
	Orchard Res'l.Estates and Golf & Country Club, Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
	FAIRWAY LOTS	**MIN BID**
62.	L - 31 Blk. – 30 / L.A. – 858	3,261,000
63.	L - 17 Blk. – 10 / L.A. – 1,034	3,830,000
64.	L - 52 Blk. – 17 / L.A. – 1,130	4,294,000
	NON – FAIRWAY LOTS	**MIN BID**
65.	L – 35 Blk. - 37 / L.A. - 687	2,061,000
66.	L – 67 Blk. - 48 / L.A. - 506	1,518,000
	STA. MARIA, BULACAN – SUNRAYS VILL.	
67.	Lot / L – 38 Blk. - 5 / L.A.- 40	60,000
68.	Lot / L – 50 Blk. - 5 / L.A.- 40	60,000
69.	Lot / L – 7 Blk. - 3 / L.A.- 70	210,000
70.	Lot / L – 9 Blk. - 3 / L.A.- 70	210,000
71.	Lot / L – 21 Blk. - 3 / L.A.- 70	210,000
72.	Lot / L – 23 Blk. - 3 / L.A.- 70	210,000
73.	Lot / L – 27 Blk. - 3 / L.A.- 70	210,000
74.	Lot / L – 29 Blk. - 3 / L.A.- 70	210,000
75.	Lot / L – 31 Blk. - 3 / L.A.- 70	210,000
76.	Lot / L – 33 Blk. - 3 / LA-83	249,000
77.	Lot / L – 34 Blk. - 3 / LA-115	345,000
78.	Lot / Block - 6 / L.A. - 111	278,000

COMMERCIAL

	TAGUIG - Global City,Fort. Boni.	MIN BID
79	Lot-2 Blk-18 / L.A.-1,643	181,552,000
80	Lot-3 Blk-18 / L.A.-1,643	181,552,000
	TAGUIG	**MIN BID**
81.	Indl lot/L-2-B-1-A-1,Perfecto Drive, Bagumbayan/ LA-2,920	9,200,000
	VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
82.	Indl Lot / Lot-301-B-1, Brgy. Maysan / Net L.A.- 3,269	1,906,000
83.	Ind'l. Lot / Lot-303-B-2, Brgy. Maysan / Net L.A.- 11,174	5,794,000
84.	Ind'l. Lot / Lot-2, 6-A, 4-A & B, 3, 6-B-1 & 2, Brgy. Maysan Net L.A-12,516 (via Viongco St)	8,003,000
85.	Ind'l Lot / Lot 1091-A-2-B, 386-C-2, 1571-386-D, 1572-B-1-A, 1572-B-2-A, 1091-A-2-A, 1572-B-2-B & 386-C-1-B, Jacinto St, Canumay-West Net L.A.- 27,094	16,303,000
86.	Ind'l. Lot w/ Warehse. / # 47 Maysan Rd., Brgy. Maysan T.L.A.- 7,871 / T.F.A.- 7,040	40,702,000
87.	Ind'l Lot / Lot-1085-B-2-C-2 Plastic City Comp'd, Brgy. Maysan. LA-400 (near gate-5)	465,000
88.	Ind'l Lot w/ 2 Warehse (14 & 16) Barracks, Canteen, Guardhse. Lot1075-D-1-C, Plastic City # 6 T. Santiago St, Canumay-West. LA- 9,923 / FA- 7,096	39,703,000
89.	Ind'l Lot w/ 3 Res'l Bldgs /Lot-382-G, Plastic City Housing Canumay LA-25,798/FA-5,310	31,627,000
90.	Wareh'se / Lot-13 Templanza St, Don Pedro Vill, Marulas Val. / L.A - 2,540 / F.A - 3,314	12,200,000
	MAKATI	**MIN BID**
91.	Lot/# 3904 Quingua St, Brgy. Pinagkaisahan / LA-612	12,240,000
92.	Condo/ 5/F Millenium Plaza Eduque St. / F.A.- 261.24	12,436,000
93.	Lot /Lot-1-B & Lot-2-B, Buendia cor. Marconi St / TLA-472	15,200,000
	QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
94	# 138 Gen. Luis cor. Pasacola rd., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon Novaliches LA-49,504/FA-23,384	354,000,000
95.	Lot 8 & 9 Blk-S-27,Timog Ave. LA-1,380/FA-1,500 (On Lease)	76,938,000
96.	Whse /# 185 Roosevelt Ave SFDM /TLA- 5,641/TFA-3,454	140,000,000
	MANILA	**MIN BID**
97.	3 Sty Bldg / Anacleto St,(near Jollibee-Tayuman)LA-294/FA-810	14,640,000
98.	Dormitory-4 Sty. / # 352 M.F. Jhocson St., Sampaloc L.A.- 489.3 / T.F.A.- 1,620.5	15,750,000
99.	2/F KP Twr., CM Recto Ave. Cor. Juan Luna St / FA-658	23,500,000
	CABANATUAN CITY, N.ECIJA (# 529 Purok Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili)	**MIN BID**
100	Agri lot /Lot 3-B/ NLA-37,041	1,656,000
101.	Comml. lot w/ W'hse. & Offc. Lot 2-H / LA-2,810 NLA-2,260.67 / FA – 580	3,569,000
	TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
102	Lot / L-4-C, Rizal St /L.A.-759	6,475,000
103	Lot / L-4-B, Rizal corner Panganiban Sts. / L.A. - 1,102	9,402,000
104	L-4-A Panganiban St/LA-1,120	9,554,000
	SARIAYA-QUEZON PROVINCE	**MIN BID**
105	Agri lot w/ resl H&L, W'hse & Piggery/Lot 6181-A-5-A-1-A-1-I, Psd 4A-001202,Sampaloc TLA -101,038.65 / TFA -9,277	40,548,000

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UCPB 1 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm
L2 B21 Urdaneta St
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Minimum Bid Price P600,000.00

UCPB 1-A - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm
L3 B21 Urdaneta St
Guadanovile Subd Brgy Tala
Minimum Bid Price P2,130,000.00

LAS PIÑAS CITY

UCPB 3 - RSLD LOT
L.A. 1,077 sqm
Brgy Zapote
Minimum Bid Price P8,077,000.00

UCPB 4 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 855 sqm.
Brgy Zapote
Minimum Bid Price P6,410,000.00

MAKATI CITY

UCPB 8-A - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 72.40 sqm
The Biltmore 102 Aguirre St
Legaspi Vill
Minimum Bid Price P 4,409,150.00

UCPB 11 - COMML CONDO UNIT
F.A. 26.85 sqm
The Palm Tower San Antonio Vill
Minimum Bid Price P859,200.00

UCPB 12-B - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 36.36 sqm
The Palm Tower, San Antonio Vill
Minimum Bid Price P1,338,048.00

MUNTINLUPA CITY

UCPB 16 - TWNHSE UNIT
L.A. 142sqm
#709 Posadas Avenue Patio Homes
Minimum Bid Price P1,900,000.00

PASIG

UCPB 20 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 105 sqm
U 509 B-09 Hampton Garden, C Raymundo Ave
Minimum Bid Price P2,622,000.00

PARAÑAQUE CITY

UCPB 22 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 157 sqm
U 908 9-F Chateau De Baie, Roxas Blvd
Minimum Bid Price P4,025,000.00

UCPB 23 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm
B Aquino Sr St., BF Homes
Minimum Bid Price P1,500,000.00

UCPB 24 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 524 sqm
J Roxas cor R Reyes St.,
BF Homes
Minimum Bid Price P2,800,000.00

UCPB 25 - TWNHSE UNIT
F.A. 226 sqm
#73 Unit 5 VJ Town Homes
Minimum Bid Price P2,600,000.00

UCPB 26 - RDSL LOT
L.A. 360 sqm
#09 N Jacinto St BF Classic Vill
Minimum Bid Price P4,900,000.00

QUEZON CITY

UCPB 29 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 121sqm
Unit 303 Whitehasco,
Araneta Ave cor Bayani St
Minimum Bid Price P1,815,000.00

UCPB 30 - CONDO UNIT
L.A. 54 sqm
Unit 18 St Dionicio Royale Exec Homes
Green Ville Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P1,600,000.00

UCPB 35 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 65sqm L11 B2 Isabella Place
Hobart Subd
Minimum Bid Price P1,868,265.00

GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN CITY

UCPB 43 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 186sqm
Unit 22 B Platinum 2000
Minimum Bid Price P6,070,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

UCPB 44 - RDSL LOT
L.A. 192sqm
#63 Santana St Sta Lucia Villa,
Brgy Veinte Reales
Minimum Bid Price P690,000.00

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

UCPB 46 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 350 sqm
L11 B5 Sadringham St
Barrington Place Bgy Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P1,435,000.00

UCPB 48 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 834 sqm
L5 B2 Salford St
Town & Country Estate
Bo Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P3,170,000.00

UCPB 50 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 640 sqm
L4 B4 Parkridge Executive Village
Bo Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price P1,028,500.00

UCPB 52 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 366 sqm
L15 B29 Main Road
(Rd Lot 44 Forest Hill Phse 1)
Minimum Bid Price P1,098,000.00

UCPB 54 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 674 sqm
L55 & 54 B50 Camaro St
Vill East Executive Homes, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price P2,735,000.00

UCPB 58 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 216 sqm
L6 B3 Foliage Hills
Minimum Bid Price P864,000.00

UCPB 59 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 168 sqm
L20 B1 Hills of Mula Alta
Minimum Bid Price P672,000.00

UCPB 61 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 385 sqm
L3 B1 Cottonwood Heights Subd
Minimum Bid Price P1,540,000.00

BULACAN

UCPB 65 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 324 sqm
L6&9 B7 378 Opel St
Villacor Vill., Bgy Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price P3,200,000.00

UCPB 66 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 221 sqm
3rd St Bo Fatima,
Sapang Palay SJDM
Minimum Bid Price P400,000.00

UCPB 67 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,628 sqm
L33 B2 Area A Sapang Palay SJDM
Minimum Bid Price P3,000,000.00

UCPB 68 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 297 sqm
L1 B58 Area C Sapang Palay SJDM
Minimum Bid Price P600,000.00

UCPB 69 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,778 sqm
L364 & 365 Maharlika Highway,
Bgy Longos Pulilan
Minimum Bid Price P3,250,000.00

UCPB 71 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 347 sqm
L20 B27 Along Assumption Road
Area C Sapang Palay SJDM
Minimum Bid Price P575,000.00

UCPB 73 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 100 sqm
L2 B15 Ayukit Subdivision
Bgy Binang 2nd Turo Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price P287,421.90

CAVITE

UCPB 75 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 534 sqm
L172 B54 Manila Southwoods,
Carmona
Minimum Bid Price P2,670,000.00

UCPB 78 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,000sqm
L13 B12 Rodeo Country Estate Subd
Minimum Bid Price P800,000.00

UCPB 81 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 71 sqm
Unit 61B Vista De Loro Height
Puerto Azul
Minimum Bid Price P2,700,000.00

UCPB 82 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 529 sqm
L 6 4&2 B6 No 44 Sampaguita St.
Martin De Porres Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P3,500,000.00

ILOILO

UCPB 84 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 704 sqm
B 129 Along Puentes & Do Guelle Streets Bgy San Agustin City Proper
Minimum Bid Price P7,040,000.00

UCPB 86 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 963 sqm
B4 L7 9 10 Along Dona Luz Ave & Cadena De Amor St Don Francisco
Minimum Bid Price P2,260,000.00

CALAMBA, LAGUNA

UCPB 91 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 528 sqm
Palacio Real Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price P1,425,600.00

UCPB 92 - RESORT BLDG.
L.A. 300 sqm
L5 H-9 Mana Makiling Village,
Bo Pansol
Minimum Bid Price P4,000,000.00

PILA, LAGUNA

UCPB 93 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 231 sqm
L1 & L2 B 3 Adelina Compound,
Sta Clara Norte
Minimum Bid Price P250,000.00

UCPB 95 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm
L 2639 C-2 Don Regino Sts
Greenland Subd Bgy Sta Clara
Minimum Bid Price P1,000,000.00

UCPB 96 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 458 sqm
win Ocampo Compound
Sta Clara Sur
Minimum Bid Price P500,000.00

UCPB 97 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 720 sqm
L 4-D along Diversion Road
Bulihan Norte
Minimum Bid Price P1,800,000.00

SAN PABLO, LAGUNA

UCPB 99 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 271 sqm
along Road Lot 7 & 9
Richwood Park Vill
Minimum Bid Price P467,800.00

UCPB 102 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 256 sqm
along S Brucal Avenue
Green Valley Subd San Francisco
Minimum Bid Price P358,400.00

MONTALBAN, RIZAL

UCPB 109 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,500 sqm
along Bgy Rd Bgy May-iba Teresa
Minimum Bid Price P1,730,000.00

LUCENA CITY

UCPB 110 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 180 sqm
L22 B11 #19 along Bolivia St
Butter Living Subd Isabang
Minimum Bid Price P1,184,000.00

UCPB 111 - COMML LOT
L.A. 1,410 sqm
Purok Matahimik Brgy Cotta
Minimum Bid Price P4,010,000.00

UCPB 112 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 194 sqm
L 4734-C-A 2 Along Trinidad St
Barangay XI Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P1,745,000.00

TAGAYTAY CITY

UCPB 113 - TWNHSE
F.A. 112 sqm
Unit C Villa Aurora Pame Compd
Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P1,400,000.00

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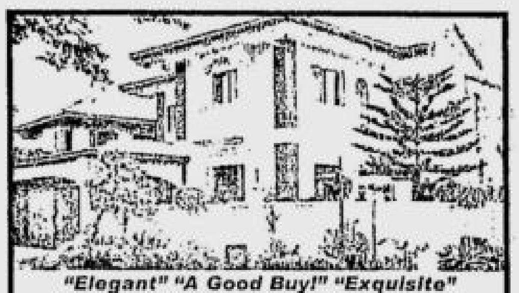

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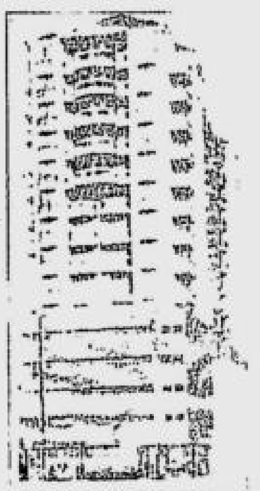
QUEZON CITY



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9th Floor Prince Plaza 35.55sqm Gbelt View w/pkng 09174965602

MANILA

Espana Tower 949T 09208309744

nr UST, ESPANA TOWER 6873372 0917-8102903

P'House 102.81sqm 2BR 2TB P2.5 Neg Cel 0916-30910

QUEZON CITY

BURGUNDY KATIPUNAN
Front Ateneo Miriam
Furn. P1.3M 0919-6470802

CUBAO 1.5M No Int. 9132224

NEW THSE TEACHERS VILL. 4BR 4TB 2CAR GRGE P3.3M 4260531/4391995/9117498

Rush! Olympic Hts 4M 77m² 4br 3tb 0917-5303632 Eastwood

Thse 3BR/2TB 2M
nr FEU Gotesco 9125847

Verdant T-house Hse & Lot No DP 20T/mo 0927 2805153

Woodside Nw Mla
Dona Juana Pasig
Sale/Rent 0917-5325440

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

Apt Proj 8 4&7drs U/D 778-1541

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

APARTMENT

LAGUNA

Ur Own Home 2ST 3BR 3TB Plus 2 One BR Apts Metroville Sta Rosa Lag P1.7M Popoy 09175441746

LOT

MAKATI

Pque Grnhts Lot 4 Sale Emma 823-4737 0917-6654184

MANDALUYONG

Dreamland 124m^2 Cor. Lot 2.25M DBO • 0918-9343046

QUEZON CITY

400sqm@6M (Neg) Proj. 6 Nr. Cherry Foodarama for Residential/Warehouse 0916-2571909 ★ 375-1008

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Commonwealth 100m^2-26T/m^2 NR EVER 0918-4491555

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RIZAL

Alg Smulong Antpolo 3749m^2 good4gas station 09178102903

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BULACAN 1501m^2=P1M&2ha@ P400/m^2 9314466/9124573Beng

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

MANGO FARM 5HAS CEMENTED ROAD W/WATER ELECT SARIAYA QUEZON 0918-3433637

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

Alg Cmnwealth Rd 9218376

HOUSE

ALABANG

141 Batangas West Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB w/s-pool Nicole 09175265778

MAKATI

Belair w/pool 3br P120T 8133828/27

Bfui Magallanes 80T 8691937

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HOUSE

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Rosario 4BR 2TB 2Grge Tel. 18T/mo. • 0917-5367040 655-06-91 Dr. Lao

QUEZON CITY

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RIZAL

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Bung 2br/2tb 1,800/day 9125847

CAVITE

2brm near LaSalle Hospital 802-3208/0916-6597084

LAGUNA

3B 2T SJ VL 09192064003

CONDO/TWNHSE

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BAGUIO

BAGUIO CONDO NICE LOC 4br 3tb 3K/day 0917-8476518

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

EDSA CALOOCAN 3FLRS COML W/BODEGA 3612653 3610652

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

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MANILA

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MANDALUYONG

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QUEZON CITY

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given of the estate of the late DIOSCORO F. FETALVERO,SR was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc81 Page18 BookXVI Series2003 before Notary Public Atty. Renato R. Devera of Quezon City
PDI-April 25, May 2&9, 2004

Notice is given of the estate of the late FREDISVENDA F. FETALVERO was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc86 Page19 BookXIV Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Rodello I. Sergio of Quezon City
PDI-April 25, May 2&9, 2004

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NOTICE

(Reinsurance of NAPOCOR Minor Policies)

In connection with the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and To Bid for the reinsurance of National Power Corporation's minor policies, the amended schedule of bidding is as follows:

	ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBILITY & BID DOCUMENTS	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID ENVELOPES
Protection & Indemnity Cover	May 4 to 18, 2004 9:00 am-5:00 pm JBC Secretariat 7th Floor-EPDC Bldg., BSP Complex Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 5, 2004 2:00 pm Board Rm, 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 20, 2004 2:00 pm Office of the Chairman Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila
Motor Car & Marine Open Policy	May 7 to 25, 2004 9:00 am-5:00 pm JBC Secretariat 7th Floor-EPDC Bldg., BSP Complex Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 12, 2004 2:00 pm Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila	May 27, 2004 2:00 pm Office of the Chairman Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila

The submission and opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes previously scheduled on **May 19, 2004** is hereby cancelled.

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing a Letter of Intent to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and payment of a non-refundable fee of US$200.00 for Protection & Indemnity Cover and Php5,000.00 each for Motor Car and Marine Open Policies, to the National Power Corporation; however, for the P&I Cover, bidders who participated in the 1st Bidding shall be exempt from payment of the Bid Fee.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations.

The JBC and EEG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent, waive any defect therein and accept the offer that they deem most advantageous to the government.

EVALUATION & ELIGIBILITY GROUP
DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee

(PDI-May 2, 3, 8 & 9, 2004)

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Subic Bay Freeport Zone
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TELEMARKETER,over 40 yrs, Male,college grad,P20T/mo Plus comm., 1 to 8PM Fax resume to 8863615 Attn: Ms. TERESA SOLIS Tel No.: 8432067

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SALES REP. Calabarzon Area 21-25yrs old 724-7990

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INVITATION FOR RE-BID

ARMM SOCIAL FUND PROJECT

Loan No. 7153 PH
IFRB–ASF–01-2004

April 29, 2004

1. The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of strategic infrastructure component of the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) Project and it intends to apply a portion of this proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the construction of various infrastructure sub-projects. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.

2. The ARMM Social Fund (ASF) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction and / or rehabilitation of the hereunder subproject:

   - Sub-Project Code : SRI-SUL-RHF-001
     Title : Rehabilitation and Improvement of Sulu Provincial Hospital
     Project Location : Poblacion, Jolo, Sulu

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at ARMM Social Fund, 3rd Floor VHW (Land Bank) Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City. Telephone Numbers (062) 992-2684-86 & 992-2706, Fax No. 991-9410, E-Mail: asfp@info.com.ph

4. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of *Php3,500.00* or its equivalent in a fully convertible currency, for each set starting **May 3, 2004.** The method of payment will be on cash basis only.

5. Bids shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after bid opening and must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at **10:00 A.M. on June 1, 2004** at the ASF Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount in the form of cash, certified check, or bank guarantee drawn against a Bank acceptable to the ASF to expire thirty (30) calendar days beyond bid validity.

6. Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at ASF Office on **May 11, 2004 at 9:00 A.M.**

7. The ARMM Social Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to the award of the contract, without thereby incurring financial or any liability to the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the ARMM Social Fund's action.

(Sgd.) **NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR**
Executive Director

(PDI–April 29 & May 2, 2004)

Announcement to the Public

We have moved to our new home!

C & E Publishing, Inc. is pleased to announce to our valued clients that we have transferred to our new office at

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04 - JUICE MAKER & PIZZA MAKER (Sp)
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02 - CLOTH VERIFICATION
02 - FLOWER DISPLAYER
02 - INTERIOR DECORATOR
02 - IT COORDINATOR
02 - COMPUTER DESIGNER
02 - SECRETARY (FEMALE)
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02 - CURTAIN TAILORING SPECIALIST
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PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget	Bidding Fee
A. Dishwashing Machine	P1.5 Million	P3,000.00

Six (6) months contract for the ff:
(July 1 - December 31, 2004)

1. Medical/Laboratory Supplies	P1,000.00/co.
2. Pharmaceutical Supplies (medicines)	1,500.00/ principal
3. Foodstuffs Supplies	500.00/co.

Source of Funding: **PHC FUNDS**

The list of eligibility requirements will be issued at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Purchasing Division, Basement of MAB, PHC, East Ave., Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The **deadline for the submission of requirements is on May 14, 2003 not later than 5:00 p.m.** For any inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at tel. No. 922-05-74 ask for Ms. Noemi Nocasa.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the PHC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any formality on the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided for in the **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 40** pertaining to the substance of the bid. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statement, or any changes in the situation of the bidder materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the PHC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bids.

(Sgd.) **RAUL D. JARA, M.D.**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – April 24, 25, May 1 & 2, 2004)

COMELEC HOTLINES

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KEPCO Ilijan Corporation
Ilijan Combined Cycle Power Plant

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INVITATION TO BID

KEPCO Ilijan Corporation (KEILCO), through the KEILCO Procurement Department (KEILCO-PD), invites all interested parties to participate in the per item bidding of the following on an "as is, where is basis":

Item No	ITEM	DATE OF ACQUISITION	PLATE NO.	QTY	U/M
1	KIA Topic	December 28, 2000	WRR 545	1	UNIT
2	KIA Topic	January 8, 2001	WRW 534	1	UNIT
3	KIA Topic	January 8, 2001	WNT 781	1	UNIT

Interested parties may submit their bid no later than 3:00 p.m. on **May 11, 2004** and address the same to the attention of:

The Manager
Procurement Department
KEPCO Ilijan Corporation
18th Floor, Citibank Tower
8741, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

The Instruction to Bidders (ITB) are available for distribution starting **April 26, 2004** during business hours and may be availed of at KEILCO's Manila Office by submitting your Letter of Intent and a refundable Bid Bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check amounting to two percent (2%) of the total bid price. The ITB may be obtained from Mr. Rod San Pedro, Procurement Supervisor at KEILCO's Manila Office, extension 161.

All the items for bid may be inspected at KEILCO's Ilijan Site Office during business hours and may be coordinated with Ms. Diosa Perez, Personnel and General Affairs Department, KEILCO Site Office, extension 100.

KEILCO's Procurement Department reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason; waive any defect or required formality therein; assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he/she/they may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation; and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to KEILCO.

For further inquiries, you may contact Mr. Rod San Pedro Jr., Supervisor of Procurement Department at 02-848-0231 local 161.

(Sgd.) DAL-HUN LEE
Manager, Procurement Department

(PDI–April 25 & May 2, 2004)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
SSS Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City
Tel. No. 841-4928; Fax No. 8414930; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph
E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the PDIC Health Maintenance Program and Audit of 30 Closed Banks. Relevant information and schedule of events are presented below. All activities shall be conducted at the Bidding Room, 9th Floor, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City.

1. PDIC Health Maintenance Program

Estimated Number of Employees	855
Approved Budget of the Contract	P6,558,000 for six (6) months coverage, July 1 to December 31, 2004
Minimum Requirements	Partnership and corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines whether 100% local or at least 60% owned by citizens of the Philippines Bidders must have at least five (5) years experience in the business and with at least ten (10) existing corporate clients
Issuance of Application for Eligibility	Starting April 27, 2004, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Submission of the Eligibility Requirements	Until 2:00 p.m. May 13, 2004
Opening of Eligibility Envelopes and Issuance of Terms of Reference/ Instructions to Eligible Bidders	2:00 p.m., May 13, 2004
Prebid Conference	May 18, 2004, 9:00 a.m.
Deadline for the submission of the Technical and Financial Proposals/Envelopes	Until 2:00 p.m. of May 31, 2004
Opening of the Technical and Financial Envelopes	2:00 p.m. May 31, 2004

2. Audit of 30 Closed Banks

Approved Budget of the Contract	P3,320,545.05 from the funds of the concerned closed banks
Minimum Requirements	Five (5) years experience in the audit of banks and other reputable companies With sufficient and qualified professional staff to undertake the review.
Availability of the Instruction to Bidders/Terms of Reference	Starting April 27, 2004, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Pre-bid Conference	May 13, 2004, 9:00 a.m.
Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals	Until 2:00 p.m., May 25, 2004
Opening of Envelopes containing the Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals	May 25, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Bidding documents/forms shall be made available to interested bidders starting April 27, 2004, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the BAC Secretariat, 9th Floor, PDIC Extension Office, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City after payment of a non refundable amount of P300.00 per project.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be on a non-discretionary pass/fail basis.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI--April 27 & May 2, 2004)

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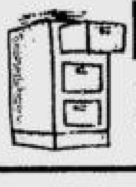

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It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home

IN MEMORIAM

AFFECTIONATELY REMEMBERING THE FIRST
DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DEARLY BELOVED

ROLANDO V. CRUZ

October 24, 1937 – May 6, 2003

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at the following churches:

Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows	May 6 – 6 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	May 6 – 6 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	May 6 – 6 p.m.
St. Francis Church, Mandaluyong	May 6 – 6 p.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Church, Pasig	April 28 to May 6 – 6 p.m.
Holy Family Parish Church, Kapitolyo	April 28 to May 6 – 6 p.m.

His Family wishes to thank all those who keep him
in their memory.

Message of Thanks

COMMISSIONER ZOSIMO SANTOS BALAGTAS

Peacefully joined our Lord Jesus on April 19, 2004
and was cremated to rest on April 25, 2004.

We, his children and our respective spouses and his grandchildren would like to express our deepest appreciation for your love and support in our hour of bereavement.

Our thanks to all those who offered Masses, novenas and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy; kept vigil and attended funeral rites; and who in countless ways condoled with, helped and comforted us.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

DR. DOLORES GONZALEZ LA'O CONDE

Peacefully joined her Creator
and her beloved Vicente on 30 April 2004.

Graduate of St. Scholastica's College, UP College of Medicine '35,
Graduate studies at Cornell University and Johns Hopkins Hospital

Beloved daughter of **Benito la'O** (†) and **Manuela Gonzalez la'O** (†); loving sister to **Jose** (†), **Hermenegildo** (†) and **Tita** (**Yaptinchay**) (†), **Fernando** (†) and **Elvira** (**Guzman**) (†), **Luz** and **Napoleon Montilla**, and **Mercedes**; aunt to her many nephews and nieces.

We enjoin the pious reader to pray for her eternal repose.

She lies in state at the Capilla de San Francisco at Santuario de San Antonio. Interment will be on 9 May 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, following the Mass of the Resurrection at 9:00 a.m. at the Santuario.

"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep,
for you alone, Lord make me secure..."
Psalm 4:9

ATTY. SALVADOR TOPACIO MASCARDO

of Imus, Cavite
and Former Customs Collector,
Manila International Airport

Peacefully joined his Creator,
*his loving wife **Gloria** and his son **Ambo***
on April 17, 2004 at the age of 91.

His children **Rolando & Janice**, **Roberto & Tikay**, **Renato & Tessie**, **Linda & Allen**, **Lilibeth**; grandchildren, great grandchildren **Esther Lagman**, relatives and friends request prayers for the repose of his soul.

His ashes are interred at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

An obituary with a picture
can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
• FREE OBIT DESIGN •

"For My yoke
is easy
and my burden
is light."
Matthew 11:30

GOODNIGHT MOMMY... - We miss you very much.

LOVINGLY REMEMBERED
On her **2nd Death Anniversary**

BARBARA V. MEDINA

December 4, 1935 - May 3, 2002

Holy Masses will be held at the following churches:

Lord's Transfiguration Parish .... 8:00 AM
Angeles City, Pampanga (May 2, 2004)
Sto Domingo Church, *Quezon City* .... 8:00 AM
Mt. Carmel Parish Church, *Proj. 6, Quezon City* .... 6:00 PM

Her family request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

DRA. COVADONGA DEL GALLEGO VDA. DE ROMUALDEZ

Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 01, 2004 at the age of 89.

Her bereaved children **QUASI** and **PEACHY, JOHNNY, NIÑA** and **MANNY, TOTS** and **SHIRLEY, BABE** and **DOODS, WACO, ANA** and **LITO**; and all her grandchildren with all her relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church, Philamlife, Las Piñas.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park on Tuesday, May 04, 2004 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Instead of sending flowers, donations to your preferred charities will be appreciated.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MEGAMALL : **635-0219; 635-0220**

CLASSIFIEDS

INVITATION FOR BID
ARMM SOCIAL FUND PROJECT
Loan No. 7153 PH
IFB-ASF-01-2004

April 29, 2004

1. The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of strategic infrastructure component of the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) Project and it intends to apply a portion of this proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the construction of various infrastructure sub-projects. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines : Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
2. The ARMM Social Fund (ASF) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction/rehabilitation of the hereunder subproject:
   - Sub-Project Code : SRI-SUL-RPF-001
     Title : Rehabilitation and Improvement of Jolo, Base Port
     Project Location : Poblacion, Jolo, Sulu
   - Sub-Project Code : SRI-TAW-RPF-001
     Title : Rehabilitation and Improvement of Bongao Base Port
     Location : Poblacion, Bongao Tawi-tawi
   - Sub-Project Code : SRI-MAG-SSF-001
     Title : Construction of Regional Social Welfare and Development Center
     Location : Brgy. Semba, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at ARMM Social Fund, 3rd Floor VHW (Land Bank) Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City. Telephone Numbers: (062) 992-2684-86 & 992-2706, Fax No: 991-9410, E-mail: aslp@info.com.ph
4. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of *Php3,500.00* or its equivalent in a fully convertible currency, for each set starting **May 3, 2004**. The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after bid opening and must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at **10:00 A.M. on June 1, 2004** at ASF Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount in the form of cash, certified check, or bank guarantee drawn against a Bank acceptable to the ASF to expire thirty (30) calendar days beyond bid validity.
6. Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at ASF Office on **May 11, 2004 at 9:00 AM.**
7. The ARMM Social Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to the award of the contract, without thereby incurring financial or any liability to the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the ARMM Social Fund's action.

(Sgd.) **NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR**
Executive Director

(PDI – April 29 & May 2, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zambales
Municipality of Candelaria
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO BID
(ITB)

May 2, 2004
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contracts located at the Barangay Taposo, Municipality of Candelaria, Province of Zambales. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as define in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Candelaria, Province of Zambales and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of 5.164 kms. Cacalanan - Mapahing Road under Contract Number RIRR 04 019 01 CAN-Z.

Project Duration: 165 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PHP 5,500.00
Minimum Bid Security: PHP 125,600.00
Bid Closing Date: June 4, 2004 Time: 2:00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	30,984.00	Sq. Mtrs.
12	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	637.46	Cu. Mtrs.
14	Embankment	11,574.20	Cu. Mtrs.
20	Aggregate Sub-base Course	3,098.40	Cu. Mtrs.
21	Aggregate Base Course	3,098.40	Cu. Mtrs.
50 (3)	Installation of 0.600mm. dia. RCPC	133.00	Ln. Mtrs.
50 (4)	Installation of 0.900mm. dia. RCPC	161.00	Ln. Mtrs.
51	Grouted Riprap	74.00	Cu. Mtrs.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit) - owned; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor (9 ton min. 1 unit) - owned; Road Grader (1 unit) - owned; Loader (1 unit) - owned; Dump Truck (4 units) - owned; Backhoe (1 unit) -owned or lease; Water truck (1 unit) - owned; survey instruments-leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Candelaria, Province of Zambales starting **May 5, 2004** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 4,500.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on **May 19, 2004** at 2:00 p.m.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of Php 125,600.00 in form: **Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee**, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Candelaria, Province of Zambales, on or before the Bid closing date on **June 4, 2004** at 2:00 p.m., at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Candelaria, Zambales reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the **lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid**.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EREBERTO H. COLLADO**
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI - May 2, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zambales
Municipality of Sta. Cruz
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO BID
(ITB)

May 2, 2004
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contracts located at the Barangays Lomboy, Tubo-Tubo North, Lucapon North & Lucapon South, Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Province of Zambales. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as define in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Province of Zambales and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of 2.098 kms. Kuala ni Bandong Road under Contract Number RIRR 04 018 01 ESC-Z.

Project Duration: 120 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PHP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security: PHP 39,000.00
Bid Closing Date: June 4, 2004 Time: 10:00 AM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	12,588.00	Sq. Mtrs.
12	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	617.00	Cu. Mtrs.
14	Embankment for Roadway	2,513.00	Cu. Mtrs.
20	Aggregate Sub-base Course	1,259.00	Cu. Mtrs.
21	Aggregate Base Course	1,259.00	Cu. Mtrs.
50 (3)	Installation of 0.600mm. dia. RCPC	32.00	Ln. Mtrs.
50 (4)	Installation of 0.900mm. dia. RCPC	6.00	Ln. Mtrs.
50 (5)	Installation of 1.200mm. dia. RCPC	18.00	Ln. Mtrs.
51	Grouted Riprap	140.00	Cu. Mtrs.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit) - owned; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor (9 ton min. 1 unit) - owned; Road Grader (1 unit) - owned; Loader (1 unit) - owned; Dump Truck (4 units) - owned; Backhoe (1 unit) -owned or lease; Water truck (1 unit) - owned; survey instruments-leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Province of Zambales starting **May 4, 2004** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on **May 19, 2004** at 10:00 a.m.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of Php 39,000.00 in form; **Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee**, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Province of Zambales, on or before the Bid closing date on **May 4, 2004** at 10:00 a.m., at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Sta. Cruz, Zambales reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractbr/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the **lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid**.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. DENNIS B. MARY**
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI - May 2, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development-Eastern Visayas
EASTERN VISAYAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Tacloban City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Health (DOH) through Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC), Hospital Bids & Awards Committee (HBAC), Tacloban City, Leyte, hereby invites sealed bids for MEDICAL, SURGICAL, DENTAL, RADIOLOGY, AND LABORATORY (MSDRL) SUPPLIES, DRUGS & MEDICINES, OFFICE, HOUSEKEEPING, AND MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES for the hospital.

Bid documents can be secured by qualified participants from the Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HBAC) through the Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (Php 300) for MSDRL and One Hundred and Fifty Pesos (Php 150) for non-medical goods.

Pre-Bid Conference, dropping and opening of bids will be held at the 2nd Floor Conference Room, EVRMC, Tacloban City, following this schedule.

Pre-Bid Conference	May 11, 2004, 9:00 AM
Deadline for dropping of Bidders' Eligibility requirements & Opening of bids	May 25, 2004, on or before 9:00 AM

A Bidder's Bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check in an amount equivalent to one percent (1%) of the approved budget for the contract must accompany each bid.

For particulars, please see Dr. Flora A. de la Peña, Chair or its Secretariat, HBAC, with Tel. Nos. (053) 321-3136, 321-9874 & 321-3129, EVRMC, Tacloban City or email add: evrmc@mozcom.com.

(Sgd.) **FLORA A. DELA PEÑA, MD, FPSP**
Chair, Hospital Bids and Awards Committee

NOTED:

(Sgd.) **ADELAIDA AMARGA ASPERIN, MD, MHA**
Chief of Hospital III

(PDI--April 25 & May 2, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
Bids and Award Committee
Division of Mountain Province

Invitation For Bids (IFB)
IFB No. 003 – SBP – 2004

May 2, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov. 1987).
2. The Division Bids and Award Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders classified by IAC & PCAB for general building for the proposed bid packages.

Package No. MTP-10-10-0065	License At least Small B	Repair of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Classrooms School Building at Bantay Elementary School in the Municipality of Tadian Mountain Province
Package No. MTP-01-06-0066	License At least Small B	Construction of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Classrooms School Building at Lunas Primary School in the Municipality of Banig. Mountain Province

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at TEEP DPISU Office, DepEd, Division Office of Mountain Province with the address at Bontoc, Mountain Province for a non refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (1,500.00) only for each package. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of Ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of 2.5% of the total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Award Committee, TEEP DPISU Office, DepEd, Division of Mountain Province, Bontoc, Mountain Province on or before 10:00 AM June 1, 2004 at which they will be opened in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) **ERLINDA P. SAN JOSE**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – May 2, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MS. GENVIEVE LIM AGTAY** of 102 Marangal St., Pacita Complex 1, San Pedro Laguna whose picture appears above is no longer a member of the Board of Directors nor an officer of The ARTWHEEL Company, Inc. effective January 8, 2004.

Any transaction entered into or made through her for the company shall not be honored.

The ARTWHEEL Company, Inc.
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(PDI – May 2, 2004)

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Fil-Am 'Idol' Jasmine Trias makes it to top 5

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Jasmine Trias, the Filipino-American girl from Oahu, survived another week on "American Idol" to make it to the top five of the popular talent search TV show in the US.

Singing Gloria Estefan's "Here We Are" during the Latin music-themed show, Trias got the nod of Estefan herself.

"I thought it was a very good performance," said Estefan, who was a guest judge in the show.

Paula Abdul agreed, saying "I have always been a fan of your voice."

Even the harsh British judge Simon Cowell commented, "It was pleasant. And pleasant is good at this point of the competition."

More confident

Trias, who dropped her trademark flower and straightened her hair, appeared more confident and sophisticated. As always, she simply smiled and listened to the judges' comments.

Although Trias was called to join the bottom three group with George Huff and John Stevens, Seacrest called her first to go back to the couch because, as they say on the show, she was "safe" for the week.

The red-haired Stevens, 16, who sang "Music of My Heart," was the one booted out of the competition. The camera focused several times on a tearful Trias who was visibly sad for Stevens who had become her friend as he sang his "farewell song."

Before the announcement, the six finalists did a medley of Gloria Estefan songs highlighted by Estefan's hit, "Conga."

Host Ryan Seacrest said over 28 million votes were cast last Tuesday night and that was the highest number of votes ever in the short history of the phenomenally successful show. He added that the vote count was even higher than in last year's finale, which decided who between Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken was going to be the "Idol." Even Stevens, who got kicked out, got an impressive four million votes.

Blessed

Eric Book, a close friend of the Trias family, said, "Jasmine feels 'blessed' that she got enough votes to stay in the top group. She's a humble person. They all know that any of them can be the next to be cut from the show. She feels the term 'diva' can actually work against you because she believes none of them has put in their dues yet to be really called a 'diva.' Out of respect for true music divas, she has hinted to be excluded from the 'diva' label. She feels that the word should not be used loosely for any singer who happens to be female. She believes that it is not yet the right time for that kind of honor."

Although the pressure is now getting more intense, Book revealed that Trias has remained strong and unaffected.

"While most of the contestants have their emotional ups and downs, Jasmine has been strong for everyone. It's a true testimony to her professionalism and character. Jasmine, as always, has been the stable person the rest of the kids have gone to for support."

New look

Explaining the new look of Trias (flower gone, straight hair, more sophisticated clothes), Book said the suggestion came "from many sources including Barry Manilow. The reality of the national exposure made her consider going beyond the 'Hawaiian Girl' image and focus on a more international 'Pop Star' image while keeping true to her beliefs. She consulted with her parents and discussed the changes. She has an awesome family and they all work with each other for the benefit of Jasmine's career."

As a member of the top five group, Trias is included in a FOX TV special titled "American Idol: The Final Five 2004" which takes "AI" fans back to the beginning of the season and showcases what has since happened up to the US telecast date, Monday, May 3.

The hour-long special, which is hosted by Seacrest, will focus on the final five contestants. The finalists will be interviewed about their experiences in "AI" and they will also talk about how they feel about making it this far. The top five will perform their favorite songs during the competition.

Aside from the special, Trias will be part of a 50-city US tour that features the top 12 finalists. Jasmine will be paid $3,000 per show

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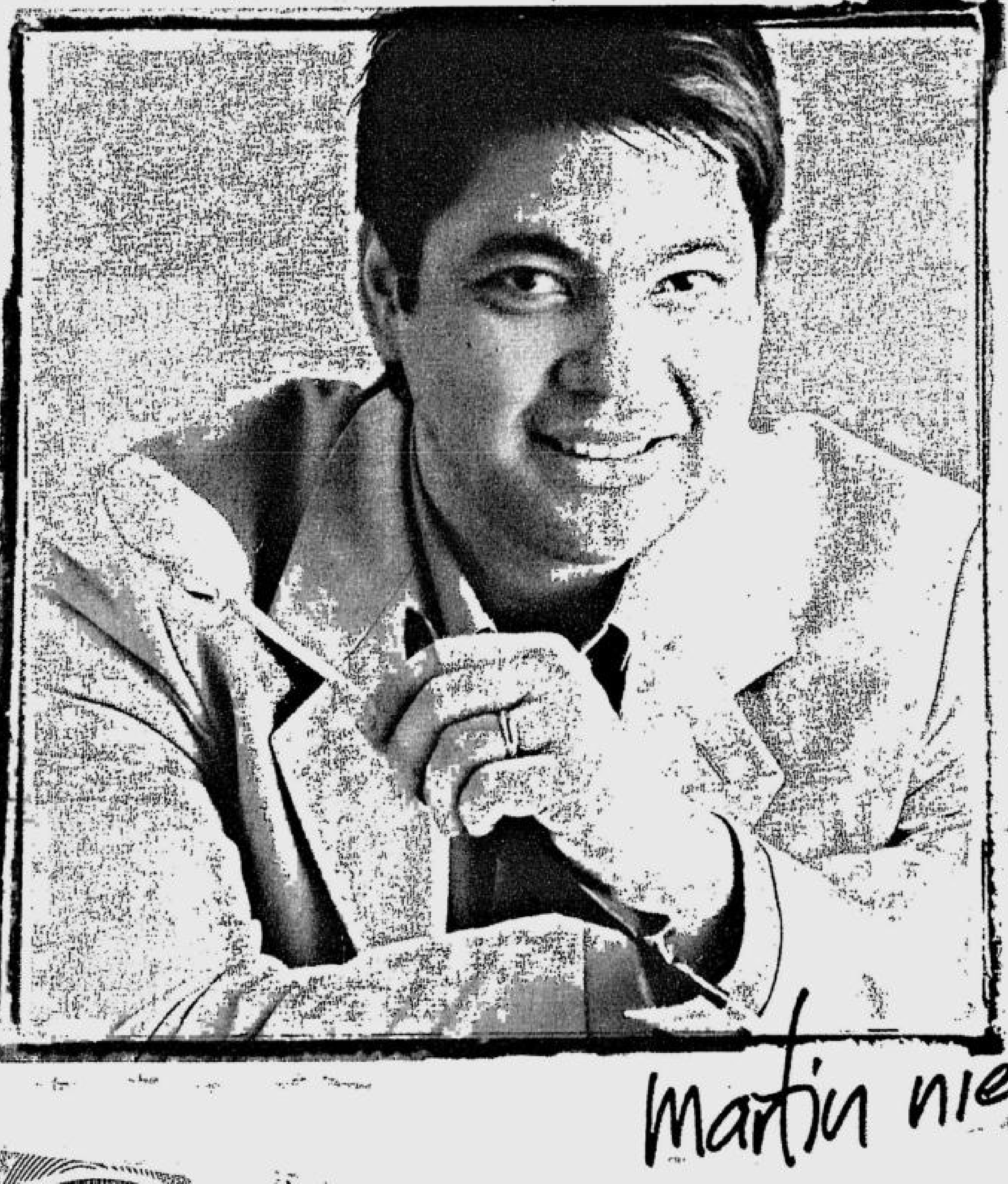

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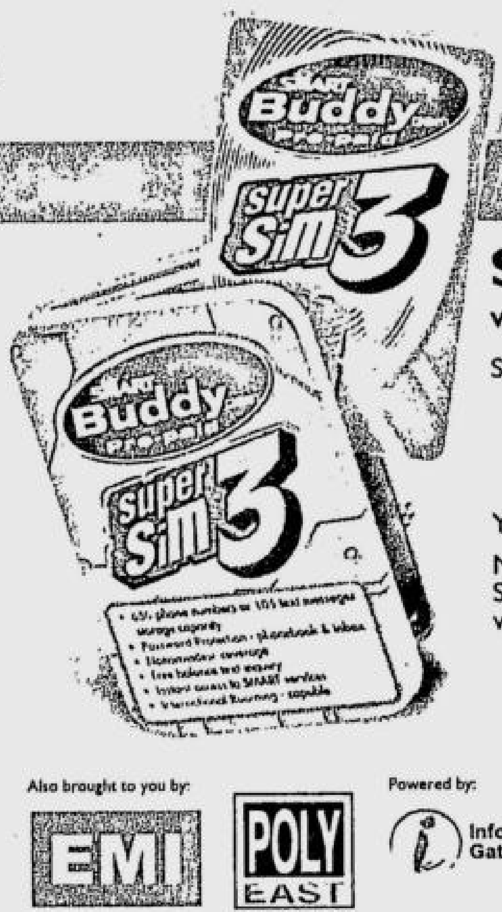

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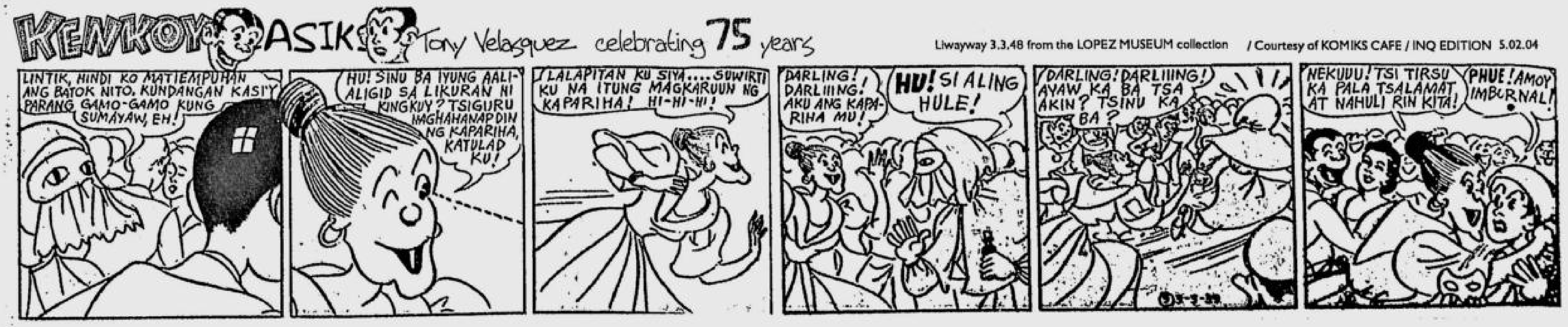
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HU! SINU BA IYUNG AALIALIGID SA LIKURAN NI KINGKUY? TSIGURU NAGHAHANAP DIN NG KAPARIHA, KATULAD KU!
LALAPITAN KU SIYA.... SUWIRTI KU NA ITUNG MAGKARUUN NG KAPARIHA! HI-HI-HI!
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PCIJ's 'Papogi' on ABS-CBN

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

IT'S a truism that people tend to be softer on potboilers and harsher on serious attempts at art.

A Caparas epic production will never get it as bad as a Portes small film would, because, well, nobody ever really expects much from Caparas but everybody expects Portes to make good on his reputation as a maverick.

Therefore, someone clueless is going to be left alone pretty much unscathed. Meantime, someone gifted is going to be made to earn every single point of praise.

This is the kind of thing that the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) has to live with all the time now.

This small but influential media organization—having laid the PEA-Amari money mess at FVR's feet and having exposed Erap's mansions and mistresses, among other efforts bestowed award after award—is today not given any slack.

Having done superior work since it was created in 1989, it simply has raised the bar on itself.

So when it produces a video-documentary on the imaging of presidents, for airing the Friday before elections on ABS-CBN prime time no less, trust that it shall be made to go through the wringer.

Let me steer clear of that trap then. And let me take, on its own terms, "Papogi," PCIJ's latest election special, directed by **Butch Perez**, produced by **Luz Rimban**, and written by **Jose Javier Reyes**.

Imaging of the President

A fine thing that the finished product is fun and playful, which is an unexpected bonus and quite in sync with today's television audience; is edited with wit and youth, which keeps its 80-minute length from boring anyone, even the lazy; and has a script that is coherent and smart-alecky, which is always a welcome treat when talking politics.

Adding to its plus points is its music. Its catchy, spunky lead song is composed by **Ryan Cayabyab** and interpreted with fire and muscle by **Cooky Chua**. (Although such a waste that the song is played only as the credit runs, which is how it goes in the cut shown in a special preview last Thursday. But the director says he's definitely lathering it throughout the video for the final version, so hurray.)

The resource persons—**Manolo Quezon, Adrian Cristobal, Reli German, Lito Banayo, Yoly Ong, Tony Abaya, Rod Reyes,** and **Dindo Gonzales**—know their stuff. (Although I could do with less minutes of them on cam for more riveting footage in exchange. Nothing personal; talking heads are just never as good.)

And host Joey Reyes hits the documentary tone just right, falling neither into irritating fluff nor irritating self-importance. (Although, again, I'm not sure I'm comfortable with shots of him mugging as the credit rolls; makes the tone teeter toward flippancy, rather inappropriate for material airing just three days before Voting Day.)

What's more, the footage choices are sometimes downright delicious! And for a whole generation of young folk, will prove totally new!

Here, credit goes to **Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala** for video research, **Miren Alvarez** and **Kidlat de Guia** for editing, and **Dave Hukom** for post production.

Particularly witty are the footage of **Imee**, with her lioness mane, calling **Cory Aquino** "*walang alam*"; Marcos, already suffering from lupus, doing leg scissors and push ups in a bright red jumpsuit; **FVR** casting a *suplado* side glance at **Erap** in Barasoain; FVR isolated, like a cartoon character, doing his Edsa bounces; **Cory** embracing a crying **Kris** following the **Joey** episode; and shots of Erap being posted on the screen one by one, like layers of a magazine cover collage.

And that's just on the latter-day presidents!

Equally fun is the documentary's black and white archival clips, both of old Filipino movies and of the republic's first presidents. (I think, though, that **Quirino, Osmeña,** and **Garcia** need more representation, as it's not likely that imaging did not figure in their presidencies.)

Finally, if the point is to say that, in the words of host Joey Reyes, "show biz *na* show biz *ang pulitika*," then the point has been made—and made grossly well!

Seizing the popular, even commercial, tools of television to make this non-commercial point is the staid PCIJ's ultimate revenge.

A sequel?

But therein also lies my problem with "Papogi." I think, maybe, PCIJ bent over backwards just a bit much with this one, unloading the whole business of imaging the presidency nimbly, playing to the gallery, and then leaving it at that.

It makes no value judgments. It leaves no statements.

Thus, it unloads information and elicits laughs, but it leaves the audience not sure where to take all that. Can it be that this documentary, a nearly two-year effort, is just for delectation?

To push it further, I really think another documentary is vainly trying to leap out of this one.

But this time, a documentary that goes beyond narrating how presidential images are made, and aims for more than just exposing who makes them—a good feature, yes, but nothing mind boggling—and actually goes into why and when imaging becomes an issue for investigation.

THE IMAGE of the Everyman; the reality of a fabulous lifestyle

See, imaging, by itself, is not always the evil it's cut out to be. Certainly there's manipulation we can do without—of a president's attire, manner, speech, stance. For indeed, what does it matter if some president is suave or nerdy or pretty or plain, for as long as that president does right by the country?

But imaging is also a tool by which a president connects to a people whom he cannot, in his lifetime, be able to meet—one by one, face to face, handshake by handshake. So he leaves them with images and symbols, buzzwords and colors that capture for them who he is and what he stands for.

This way, people are assured they have chosen right.

And *right there* is where the documentary should go.

Have the people, indeed, chosen right? Does image reflect truth? Are man and myth one?

When the imaging misleads—distracts from, hides, deflects, or buries the truth—that is where imaging becomes foul play, and that is when a documentary is needed, in PCIJ's words, to "tell it as it is."

After the footage of **Imelda** and **Ferdinand**, for instance, dancing and playing genial hosts to international artists, it would be good to see the other truth: the savagery of the best and brightest among the young being abducted, erased forever, their families never to find closure.

After Cory's many images of the good housewife coming up against the evil dictator, it would be good to remember the figures: a total war policy that brought on the biggest waves of internal refugees in the country's history.

And so on.

Finally, this point: In the hands of documentary makers lies the grand task of retelling stories old and new. In the clips they unearth and in their choice of footage sequence lie the bare bones of a history being written again.

Through them, new images are born. Thus, they turn into image makers themselves. Happily, PCIJ's excellent people are the kind to want a perfect match between imaging and reality.

Here's to waiting for the sequel! Meantime, watch "Papogi," May 7, Friday, ABS-CBN, 9 p.m.

SHOW STOPPER

DRESSED TO WIN Finalists of "Star Circle Kids Quest," the reality-based kiddie talent show on ABS-CBN, hosted by Luis Manzano and Jodi Santamaria, will have a wardrobe makeover courtesy of Moose Gear. The brand is known for its stylish and comfortable children's casual clothes. It will transform the 10 finalists from normal kids to little child stars. Moose Gear will also hold a nationwide promo that will give P10,000 cash and four VIP tickets to the "Star Circle Kids Quest" grand finals. For inquiries, text SCQPROMO to 2366.

Fil-Am 'Idol' Jasmine Trias makes it to top 5

From page C1

and will receive $450 for clothes each week from "AI" during the tour, according to Book.

This week, a CD of the top 12 finalists titled "American Idol Season 3: Greatest Soul Hits" was released in the US.

Celebrity fans

Playing during the Latin-themed night was Gloria Estefan's own backup band, the Miami Sound Machine. Estefan confessed that she is also a big fan of "American Idol." "Even my daughter loves to watch this show," she revealed.

A lot of celebrities have already confessed that they are big fans of "American Idol." Among them are Elton John, Quentin Tarantino, Barry Manilow and, recently, even Oscar winner Denzel Washington.

Washington has admitted that he is an "American Idol" addict. He said in another interview, "It's one of the few programs that I bother watching. I have to admit I am hooked."

After he was let go from the competition, finalist John Peter Lewis said the finalists actually "live inside what we call the 'American Idol' bubble. We don't know what's going on in the outside world. We just practice our songs, go to the mansion to sleep and then do the show the following day." Book confirmed that the finalists "don't see the shows or hear the radio. They're basically sequestered from public opinion right now."

Racist

The dismissal last week of African-American singer Jennifer Hudson from "American Idol" elicited howls from fans, including Elton John, who labeled the voting by the national viewing audience as "incredibly racist."

The so-called "Three Divas," composed of Hudson, Fantasia Barrino and LaToya London, who are African-Americans and who were thought to be strong contenders for the "Idol" title, landed surprisingly in the bottom three.

TRIAS feels blessed that she still gets the votes to remain in the show.

Some opinions expressed in the media said divas' fans may have become complacent and thought that they did not have to vote anymore. Seacrest thus kept reminding viewers that "it is important for you to vote for your favorite singer. It is not enough that you just root for them."

Due to the popularity of the show, a reverse "American Idol" show is due to hit reality show-mad television. In this coming show, the good singers are eliminated in favor of the bad performers.

Friends share fond memories of Lino Brocka

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER **Behn Cervantes** spoke fondly of **Lino Brocka** at our group's tribute to the late, lamented master filmmaker earlier this month, **Laurice Guillen** followed up with her loving reminiscences. She was one of Lino's "signature" actresses onstage and in the movies, so she had a lot of memories to share.

Laurice recalled a number of interesting incidents that told us a lot about Lino as director, but it was her personal relationship with him that she valued most of all.

Yes, he "interfered" in his star-friends' lives; yes, he could be a control freak. But Laurice saw past that and deeply appreciated the caring person Lino was, away from the lights and cameras. "I loved him dearly!" she shared.

Lino must have been smiling down on us with special delight at that particular moment.

For his part, **Tommy Abuel** said he was very appreciative of Lino because the acclaimed director had given him a memorable role in "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag," for which performance he had been given his first acting award in the movies.

Tommy also acted for Lino in many teleplays for "Balintataw" and "Hilda," and like Laurice, he had also gotten to know and value the man behind the celebrated film icon.

Haydee Yorac recalled that she had been a fan of Lino's films long before they met. She defended him at the Supreme Court in the landmark "Kapit sa Patalim" case.

In the course of their many meetings to discuss the celebrated case, Haydee counseled Lino to be more temperate when addressing the august justices. Privately, however, she admired his passionate espousal of the causes he felt most deeply about.

"He was such a warm person," she beamed. "I still keep his little notes to me. And I cherish what he told me one time: *'Hindi ka lang magaling na abogado, kundi totoong tao!'*"

When it was **Mitch Valdes'** turn to talk about Lino, we all paid special attention, because we knew that Mitch had been Lino's neighbor for years.

Mitch laughed and shared that, as we were sharing our stories about Lino, she was getting goosebumps, because she knew about many of those anecdotes, but from another perspective—Lino's!

This was because, as those events were taking place, she was getting an earful about them from Lino. Being his neighbor, she talked to him more often than most, so through the years, she had become very familiar with his different relationships, from *his* point of view.

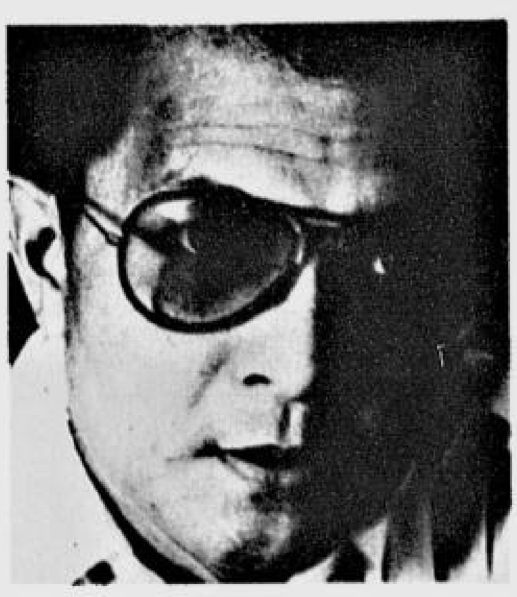
Her own professional involvement with Lino began when he did something completely unexpected: she was only 23 years young when he cast her as the mother of Gypsy Rose Lee in the musical "Gypsy!" which he directed at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The casting choice was risky, but both director and actress pulled it off, and Mitch was lauded for her memorable performance as Mama Rose.

We observed that, now that Mitch was a golden girl, she should play the role again in a new production of the musical, and her performance should be even better!

Mitch on Lino: "I saw all of his fights, the issues he felt deeply about. He introduced me to gay pornography—but things were never tawdry with him. He had more like a childlike curiosity.

"I saw him get angry at people—it was scary. But I also saw how much he loved, and that's what I remember most!" *(To be concluded.)*



BROCKA

Show biz hopefuls remain hopeful

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

FINALISTS in Star Circle Quest agree that even if they're booted out of the competition, the experience is priceless in their search for stardom.

RAPHAEL Martinez, 14, is peeved by a line in the rap portion of Parokya ni Edgar's pseudo R&B piece, "The Yes Yes Show," that drops the name of his uncle, former actor Benedict Aquino.

"*Tulad ko at ni* Keno *at ni* Benedict Aquino *na wala na yatang mas sisikat pa kahit na sino*," he raps the object of his ire. And then shakes his head, "But [everybody knows that] it's all a joke."

After all, Benedict, whose filmography includes the '80s teen movie "14 Going Steady" with Gretchen Barretto and Nadia Montenegro, is Raphael's inspiration in joining show business, aside from his mother, who's his biggest fan. "I would like to achieve what he wasn't able to accomplish," vows the optimistic upstart. "I want to be a star."

Passport to stardom

Raphael believes that Star Circle Quest is his passport to stardom. After all, ABS-CBN's primetime star search program carries on the tradition of Star Circle, the launching pad of the now established young stars like Piolo Pascual, Kristine Hermosa, Jericho Rosales and John Lloyd Cruz, just to name a few.

But Raphael, who evinces a striking semblance to dusky singer-actor Ariel Rivera, was voted off from the competition two Saturdays ago. The night before, kid finalist Celine Lim was eliminated. Star Circle Quest is divided into two categories: kids and teens.

Four kids and four teens more will be booted out of Star Circle Quest in the next four weeks. The 10 remaining finalists will compete in a showdown where only one teen and one kid will emerge as the ultimate winners. All 10 survivors will receive a cool million pesos, with the champions bagging an additional million bucks.

Not complete losers

Still in the running in the teen category are Hero Angeles, Errol Abalayan, Joross Gamboa, Joseph Bitangcol, Melissa Ricks, Michelle Madrigal, Neri Naig, Roxanne Guinoo and Sandara Park.

The kiddie group, on the other hand, is made up of Nash Aguas, Aaron Junatas, Jodell Stasic, CJ Navato, Basty Alcanses, Mikylla Ramirez, Sharlene San Pedro, KC Aboloc and Alex Ramos.

Raphael and Celine may already be out of the contest but it doesn't mean that they are complete losers. Besting thousands of wannabes in the auditions to earn a slot in the finals was triumph enough for the promising upstarts. They will also greatly benefit from the workshops and media exposure that Star Circle Quest has given them.

Celine, in fact, has been included in the cast of Robin Padilla and Judy Ann Santos' teleserye, "Basta't Kasama Kita."

If he's been voted off, Hero Angeles says that he, too, would still be thankful for the once-in-a-lifetime experience. "Then I'll take more workshops so that I'll be able to hone my craft. I've learned to love it," he smiles.

Model search

"I've always wanted to be an *artista*," relates Hero, 19. "When I was in Grade 2, I kept asking God when I'd be discovered for show business. But I didn't join any theater groups because I was very shy."

When he got to college, Hero remembers breaking out his shell. He became more outgoing and confident. In 2001, he was finally spotted by a talent agent in a mall. print ad and joining and eventually winning the grand prize at the Q Club London Image Model Search.

Hero recalls queuing up at the ABS-CBN compound at 10 a.m. and got called in by 11 p.m. "I went to my first audition alone so I had nobody to stand in line with. To make sure that I won't lose my place, I didn't go to the cafeter*ia to eat.* Namutla ako sa gutom."

Motivation

The financial reward was also Hero's motivation in joining Star Circle Quest. It will go a long way for him, he says. For starters, he vows to settle all of his family's debts. His father Francisco is a retired salesman who occasionally works as a driver. His mother Elena is a full-time housewife.

Hero's older brothers Hector and Henry help send him to school (University of the Philippines, major in Visual Communication), and their youngest sibling Baby who's still in high school.

Hero also plans to consult a nutritionist and enroll in a gym to improve his very lean physique. If there's still enough money left, Hero intends to put up a business—maybe an eatery since he's very proud of his mother's culinary gifts.

But Hero's fate—and those of the other finalists'—lies on the hands of jurors Boy Abunda, Gloria Diaz, Lauren Dyogi, Rowell Santiago, Eula Valdez, Maricel Laxa and Randy Santiago who assess the show biz hopefuls face-to-face.

Now or never

"It's now or never" is what Hero tells himself each time he faces the panel. "You have to be ready for whatever they'll tell you," he says.

Joross Gamboa agrees: "I don't feel bad about the judges' negative comments. I know that they have nothing personal against me. In fact, I'm thankful for their constructive criticisms."

The 19-year-old Nursing student's only regret has been mentioning his erstwhile girlfriend's name during the audition. "I thought that portion would be edited out. She's Chinese so she got into trouble with her parents," he explains.

Joross, who admits to have had 20 girlfriends, declares that he's unattached at the moment. "I want to focus on being in Star Circle Quest'. I'm really enjoying being an *artista*. I'm also discovering a lot about myself."

His first ambition was to become a Michael Jordan, says Joross, until he stopped growing at 5'8. His parents first thought it would be better for him to work as a nurse abroad. "But now they're very supportive of my show biz dream," Joross declares.

'Bahay Beauty Queen' for 'Buhay Beauty Queen'

AFTER spending several hectic days at the Manila Diamond Hotel, where the ABC 5's "Buhay Beauty Queen" press launch was previously held, the candidates in the Mutya ng Pilipinas 2004 moved to their official home, Tagaytay, where more unexpected twists and turns can happen.

Den mothers Lon Adalia and Sandy Hontiveros greeted the remaining 29 candidates as the beauties entered their new home, lovingly dubbed "Bahay Beauty Queen." The den mothers then announced the house rules, which include the no-visitors-allowed policy.

For the next three months, home for the candidates is this big old mansion in the heart of Tagaytay. The house was probably built more than two decades ago since, according to the caretaker, it has been uninhabited for almost 14 years. But despite being unoccupied for more than a decade, the mansion looks fresh and homey. A wide collection of art works is all over the place—from abstract paintings to dolphin sculptures, from Japanese platework to Indonesian art, and from classy furniture to lovely ethnic ornaments. Indeed, the place is like an art gallery turned into a home.

"The house that you see now is not even close to its earlier appearance before Buhay Beauty Queen found it and refurbished it," said production designer Rollie de Leon. "Buhay Beauty Queen sponsors like the Philippine Art Gallery and Union Square provided us with paintings, sculptures and furniture to liven up the place."

De Leon also acknowledged the support of owners/curators/artists of the Philippine Art Gallery, especially Allan Flores, Carlo Magno and Arnel Borja, and Union Square.

One of the paintings displayed in the preview room is the work of BBQ fairy godmother Evangeline Pascual. "I paint," says the former beauty queen. "That's one thing I discovered about myself. I can paint now."

For viewers to get to know the candidates better, director Aleah Aliporo set up a special corner called "The Room" where the girls talk to the camera and react to the "topic of the day."

The Room is an intimate space where there should only be one person at a time," explains the director. "Each is given 10 minutes to express her feelings and reactions, or write messages on the bulletin board at the back."

Get to know the candidates as they live and play in Tagaytay, one of the country's most popular tourist spots. Watch as they grow from being simple hopefuls to gorgeous beauty queens. Buhay Beauty Queen airs weeknights at 9:30 on ABC.

SOLANGE, DESTINY'S CHILD SING TV THEME

Two of today's hottest pop sensations, Solange (younger sister of Beyoncé) and Destiny's Child, have combined their vocal prowess to record the theme song for Disney Channel's original animated series, "The Proud Family," which airs at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. "Great music, performed by uniquely talented artists and integrally linked to our award-winning original programming, is a key component of our strategy," says Disney Channel Original Programming executive vice president Gary Marsh.

Rapper relives fatal car crash in new album

SHOW STOPPER

OCTOBER 2002 is a memory Kanye West will never forget. Driving back from a recording session in downtown LA, the producer/burgeoning rapper nearly lost his life in a fatal car accident, leaving him with a fractured jaw.

Nevertheless, this did not stop West from doing music. In fact, he used the experience as an inspiration for a new rap song. Right after his release from the hospital, he recorded "Through the Wire," a pointed and personal account of the event that resonates with uncanny wit and raw emotion.

Through the Wire is the carrier single from Kanye West's new album, "College Dropout," under Universal Music Philippines. Very simply, the song marks the emergence of hip-hop's most important new voice. Rap music's storied history has seen several artists play the dual roles of world wielder on the mike and trackmaster behind the boards.

SeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 STARSKY & HUTCH	1 MAN ON FIRE	1 SCHOOL OF ROCK	5 BIG FISH	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 MAN ON FIRE 3.15, 6.10, 9.05, 12.00	1 PAYCHECK
2 HELLBOY	2 STARSKY & HUTCH	2 MAN ON FIRE	6 STARSKY & HUTCH	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 STARSKY & HUTCH 1.35, 3.40, 5.45, 7.50, 9.55, 12.00	2 PETER PAN
3 MAN ON FIRE	3 HELLBOY	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HELLBOY 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 8.00, 10.30	7 WHOLE 10 YARDS	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SCHOOL OF ROCK 1.20, 3.40, 6.00, 8.20, 10.40	3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4 WHOLE 10 YARDS	4 SCHOOL OF ROCK	4 PAYCHECK		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 WHOLE 10 YARDS 1.35, 3.40, 5.45, 7.50, 9.55, 12.00	4 DRAGON VS. NINJA
5 SCHOOL OF ROCK				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HELLBOY 1.20, 3.50, 6.20, 8.50, 11.20	5 TAKING LIVES

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 IMAGINING ARGENTINA 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
2 STARSKY & HUTCH 12:35, 2:40, 4:45, 6.50, 8.55

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
NYOY VOLANTE W/ MANNOS...LIVE! Special Guest: Chedi Vergara May 1, 5:00pm	AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER (A Wedding & Debut Event Year 2) April 30 to May 2, 2004	NICKELODEON'S SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS: BIKINI BOTTOM BASH April 30 to May 2 11:00am, 3:00pm, 6:00pm

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2	PAYCHECK
3	STARSKY & HUTCH
4	PETA
5	A WHOLE 10 YARDS
6	MAN ON FIRE
7	HAUNTED SPIRIT
8	BOOBITA ROSE
9	SCHOOL OF ROCK
10	HELLBOY
11	TAKING LIVES
12	ANIMAL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	PAYCHECK
2	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3	SPARTAN
4	STARSKY & HUTCH
5	MAN ON FIRE
6	HELLBOY
7	SCHOOL OF ROCK
8	PETER PAN
9	BOOBITA ROSE
10	HAUNTED SPIRIT
11	A WHOLE 10 YARDS
12	ANIMAL

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	MAN ON FIRE
2	STARSKY & HUTCH
3	TAKING LIVES
4	HELLBOY
5	PETER PAN
6	PAYCHECK
7	ACACIA
8	SCHOOL OF ROCK
9	BOOBITA ROSE
10	HAUNTED SIPIRIT
11	A WHOLE 10 YARDS
12	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	A WHOLE 10 YARDS
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4	HELLBOY
5	PAYCHECK
6	PETER PAN
7	STARSKY & HUTCH
8	MAN ON FIRE

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416

1	MAN ON FIRE
2	PAYCHECK
3	HELLBOY
4	PETER PAN
5	STARSKY & HUTCH
6	TAKING LIVES
7	SCHOOL OF ROCK
8	BOOBITA ROSE
9	A WHOLE 10 YARDS
10	ANIMAL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	HELLBOY
2	MAN ON FIRE
3	STARSKY & HUTCH
4	ANIMAL

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17

1	HELLBOY
2	TAKING LIVES
3	THE CURSE
4	STARSKY & HUTCH

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	PETER PAN
2	HELLBOY
3	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
4	CHECK INN
5	BOOBITA ROSE
6	STARSKY & HUTCH

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505

1	HELLBOY
2	TAKING LIVES
3	GRUDGE 2
4	PAYCHECK

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8066888

1	HELLBOY
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3	STARSKY & HUTCH
4	A WHOLE 10 YARDS
5	PAYCHECK
6	SPARTAN
7	HAUNTED SPIRIT
8	MAN ON FIRE
9	BOOBITA ROSE
10	ANIMAL

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055

1	STARSKY & HUTCH
2	MAN ON FIRE
3	A WHOLE 10 YARDS
4	HELLBOY

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975

1	SCHOOL OF ROCK
2	MAN ON FIRE
3	STARSKY & HUTCH
4	HELLBOY

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868

1	A WHOLE 10 YARDS
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3	MAN ON FIRE
4	HAUNTED SPIRIT
5	HELLBOY
6	STARSKY & HUTCH
7	ANIMAL
8	BOOBITA ROSE

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80

1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	THE CURSE
3	GRUDGE 2
4	PAYCHECK

Visayas & Mindanao

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2	50 FIRST DATES
3	PETER PAN
4	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
5	DRAGON VS. NINJA
6	CHECK INN
7	BOOBITA ROSE
8	PAYCHECK

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422

1	SORUM
2	RESERVED
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
5	PETER PAN
6	PAYCHECK
7	RESERVED
8	GRUDGE 2

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998

1	PETER PAN
2	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	DEATH CURSE
5	TAKING LIVES
6	PAYCHECK

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884

1	PETER PAN
2	ACACIA
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	PAYCHECK

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA

1
MAN ON FIRE
11:10 FS/11:40
MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/10:35
LFS/11:00 LMF/1:25 END

2
STARSKY & HUTCH
11:15 FS/11:45
MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/
10:30 LFS/11:00
LMF/12:45 END

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Registration is on May 2, 4-5 pm at the Cinema lobby of the SM Megamall and Judging follows. Winners will receive gift certificates worth P5,000 from San-San, "I Will Survive" t-shirt, Leonardo tote bag and P10,000 cash each. Plus, instant access to the Red Carpet Premiere of "I Will Survive".

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See the photo exhibit of "I will Survive" movie starting May 5 at the Cinema lobby of SM Megamall.

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regular showing | may5 2004
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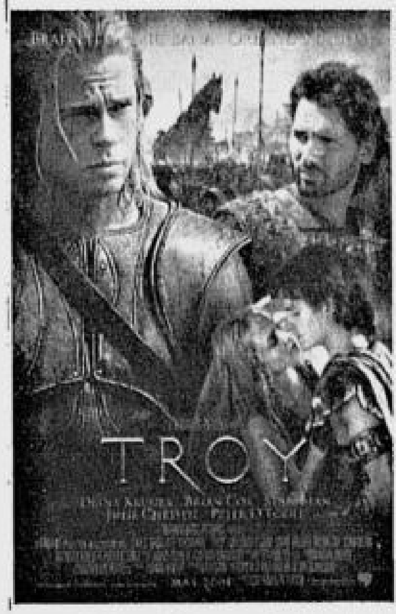
SM CINEMA



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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	WHOLE 10 YARD
6 GOLD (SDDS)	STARSKY & HUTCH
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	MAN OF FIRE
8 [illegible]	BOOBITA ROSE
9 [illegible]	SCHOOL OF ROCK
10 [illegible]	PETER PA

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	MAN OF FIRE
5	ANIMAL

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	MAN OF FIRE
2	ANIMAL
3	STARSKY & HUTCH
4	HELLBOY
5	WHOLE 10 YARD
6	SCHOOL OF ROCK

M star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	ANIMAL
2	ACACIA

PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) tel 892.2503 LUCASFILM THX

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	
2	
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

5	RESERVE
6	
7 (DTS)	
8 (SDDS)	
9 (DOLBY)	

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
4 (SDDS)	HELLBOY
5	STARSKY & HUTCH
6 (DOLBY)	ANIMAL
7 (DTS)	MAN OF FIRE
8	CHECK INN
9	BOOBITA ROSE

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1	RESERVE
2 (SDDS)	
3 (DTS)	
4 (DOLBY)	
5	

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	MAN OF FIRE
2	SPARTAN
3 (DTS)	WHOLE 10 YARD
4	ANIMAL
5	HELLBOY

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	CARMEN
Lords	DOUBLE SEDUCTION

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MAN ON FIRE
2	STARSKY & HUTCH
3	ANIMAL
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	WHOLE 10 YARD
2	MAN ON FIRE
3	ANIMAL
4	STARSKY & HUTCH
5	HELLBOY

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	ANIMAL
2	TORQUE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT **Araneta Center**
MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No. 911-3191 Loc. [illegible]

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MAN OF FIRE
4 (SDDS)	STARSKY & HUTCH
5 (DTS)	WHOLE 10 YARD
6	HELLBOY
7	SCHOOL OF ROCK

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	HELLBOY
2	ACACIA
3	PETER PAN
4	STARSKY & HUTCH

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	STARSKY & HUTCH
2	HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY)	PETER PAN
4	BOOBITA ROSE

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DOLBY)	REPLICANT
4	EMPERORS CLUB

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	STARSKY & HUTCH
2	ANIMAL
3 (DTS)	HELLBOY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MAN OF FIRE
2 (DTS)	STARSKY & HUTCH
3 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
4	UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	STARSKY & HUTCH
2 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
3 (DTS)	MAN OF FIRE
4	UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (045) 9821727

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	PASSION OF CHRIST
3 (DOLBY)	UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY)	BONE SNATCHER
4 (DTS)	PASSION OF CHRIST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1	PETER PAN
2	TAKING LIVES
3	HELLBOY

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HIGHWAY ME
2	ANIMAL
3	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
4 (DTS)	LOVE KITA BILIB KA H

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
2	ANIMAL
3 (DTS)	MAN OF FIRE
4	UNINVITED
5	STARSKY & HUTCH

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ANIMAL
2	MAN OF FIRE

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558

1	STARSKY & HUTCH
2	MAN OF FIRE
3	ANIMAL

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	PASSION OF CHRIST
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS)	BONE SNATCHER
4	CHECK - IN

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	CHECK - IN
2	HELLBOY
3	TWISTED
4	PASSION OF CHRIST

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ANIMAL
2	VIRGIN PEOPLE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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Filinvest - Alabang
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SCOOBY-DOO 2 MONSTERS UNLEASHED
NOW SHOWING

Edu scores convictions

VIDEOGRAM Regulatory Board (VRB) chair Edu Manzano has nailed down several persons engaged in the illegal reproduction of video and audio materials.

Since he assumed office a few months ago, Manzano had confiscated more than 250 sacks of pirated goods and several replicating machines.

The VRB recently also scored convictions against a vendor of pirated discs and nine foreigners operating separate replicating plants and warehouses in Valenzuela City.

Judge Antonio M. Eugenio Jr. found Sta. Cruz vendor Marivic Dianito guilty of violating Section 8 of Presidential Decree 1987. She was sentenced to three months and one day to one year in jail and ordered to pay a fine of P100,000.

Dianito was nabbed selling pirated VCDs, DVDs and CDs during a raid on the Manila City Plaza in Sta. Cruz, Manila, on Dec. 27, 2002.

Also found guilty were Joshua Chen, Lee Hookbeng, Johan Ang, Yang Zhu Sy, Weng Jiong, Kin Diang, William Tan and Ong Wen San, who were sentenced to three months and one day in jail and ordered to pay a fine of P50,000 each with subsidiary imprisonment in case of insolvency.

Confiscated from the group's warehouse on Lambada Street in Don Pedro Subdivision, First Malinta Industrial Complex, Rincon, Valenzuela City were three lines of Kraus Maffie Injection Machines, a Hanky CD printer and accessories worth P100 million.

Also seized were videogram stampers as well as finished videogram products.

The group of Jiang Ming Zhi, Huang Shang Ti and Zheng Huo Yan got a similar sentence.

The suspects were arrested during an operation on a replicating plant at 9-B G. Marcelo St., Maysan, Valenzuela on Jan. 28, 2003. The raid yielded two lines of Kraus Maffie Injection Moulding Machines, a Hanky printer and assorted pirated goods estimated to be worth P50,000.

"*Wala kaming sasantuhin!*" VRB chair Edu Manzano declared.

SHOW STOPPER

The latest from Rimes

POP-COUNTRY singer and Grammy Award-winning artist LeAnn Rimes has finally released her greatest hits album, "Best of LeAnn Rimes."

A certified multi-platinum album, Best of LeAnn Rimes is a must have for fans of her soothing blend of country, pop and light rock. Keeping in tune with both the past and present, the album includes some of her most memorable and unforgettable songs such as "Life Goes On" and "We Can" and many of her classic hits such as "Blue," "One Way Ticket," and "I Need You," plus her latest, "This Love."

Best of LeAnn Rimes is available in major music stores.

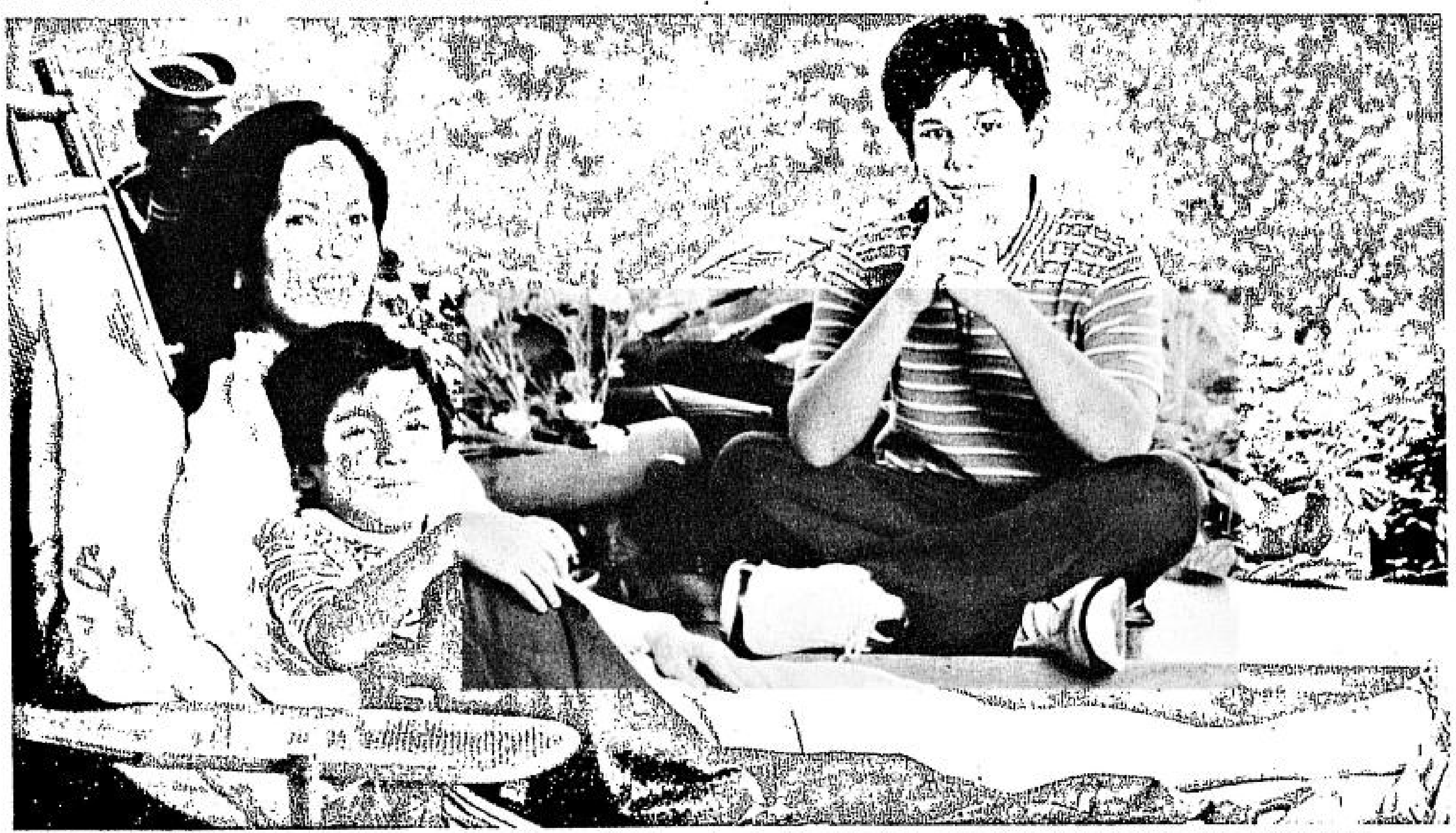
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

HIGH on Tagaytay Highlands /F1

A stylish tribute to Mom


MOMENTS with Mom: Gina Lopez relaxes in her Quezon City home in a Jessica white top, Anne Klein khaki skirt and Anne Klein nude sandals; Roberto and Benjamin in sport pants and striped shirts from Ralph Lauren Kids

FOR MOTHER'S Day this year, Stores Specialists, Inc. pays tribute to all moms by celebrating three women of style and substance who combine careers and an active social life with full-time motherhood.

Her true calling

Philanthropist Gina Lopez has been at the forefront of providing service and awareness through her numerous socio-civic projects such as Bantay Bata. Her dedication to various causes, whether to preserving human rights or the environment, has earned her the love and respect of friends and supporters everywhere, but most of all by her two adorable boys, 12-year-old Roberto and eight-year-old Benjamin.

Warm and welcoming during the shoot at her beautifully breezy house in Quezon City, Gina is ever so accommodating as she styled the fashions of Anne Klein and Jessica.

Fit and health-conscious, she says, "I grow vegetables here in my house. I don't eat pork and beef. As a result, I feel much better and my disposition is better as well."

There is no question that motherhood is a full-time profession, and Gina knows that, for all her civic works, this is her true calling.

"There are a lot of difficulties involved, a lot of patience and tolerance especially when they're kids because of their moods, and because they're growing up. But motherhood is also extremely fulfilling when I see my children growing up as compassionate, multi-faceted individuals who try to be the best they can be. That makes me very happy."

Gina's mother also provided her inspiration in the way she rears her kids. As she recalls, "Mom's a real lady. She's a very decent and wise woman, compassionate to others. She wasn't *matapobre* at all. And these values she taught me are some of the important things I teach my kids as well."

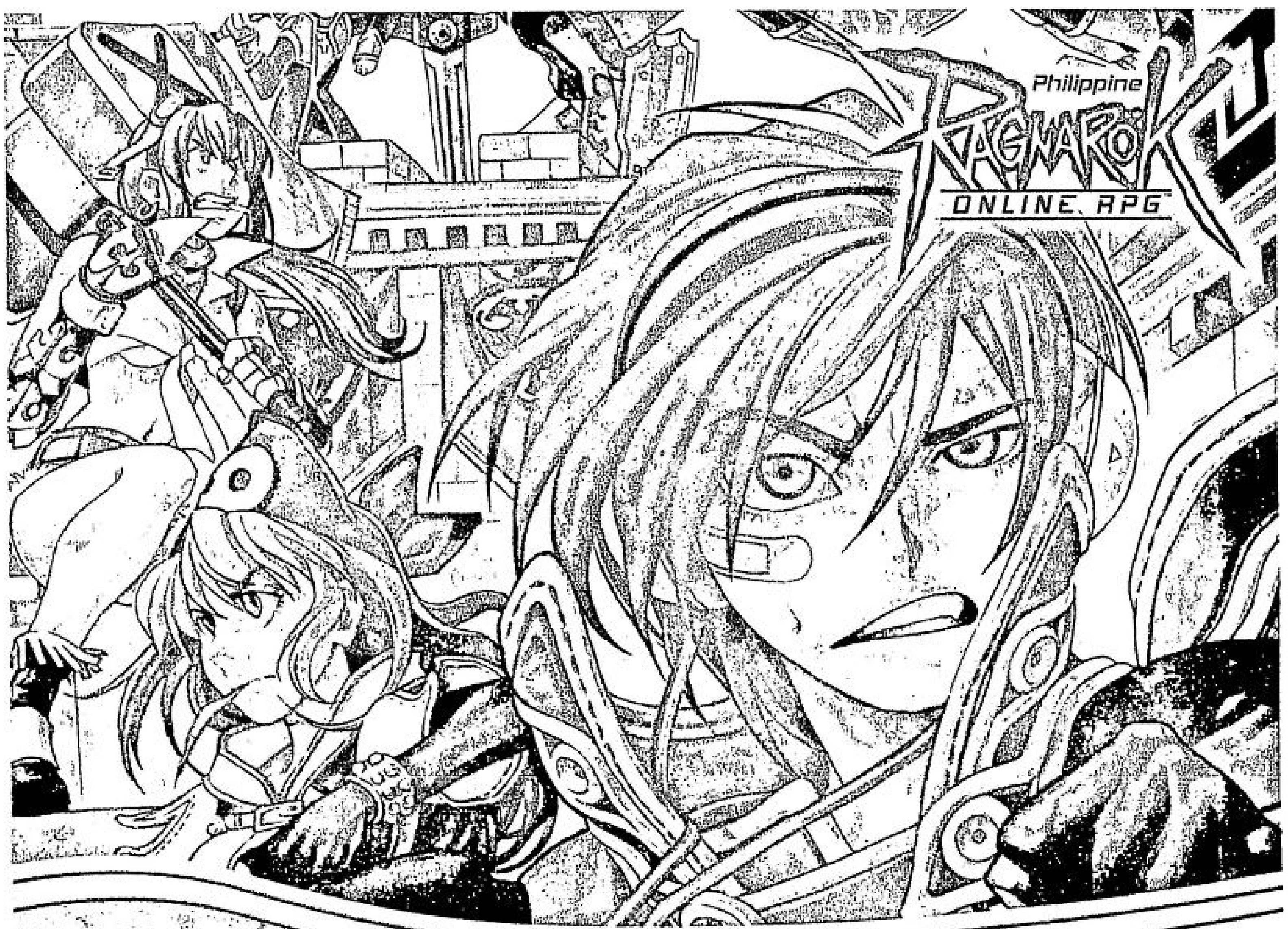
Enviable tandem

Susan Joven's face beams when she is asked about her grandchildren: two-year-old Santi and one-year-old Noey.

"They're my babies. I take them to the bookstore, toy shops and amusement centers. My kids get mad at me because they say I'm spoiling their children. But that's the role of a grandma... to

A STYLISH/ D2

GINA Lopez in a DKNY pink tank top with shoulder detail and DKNY black pants



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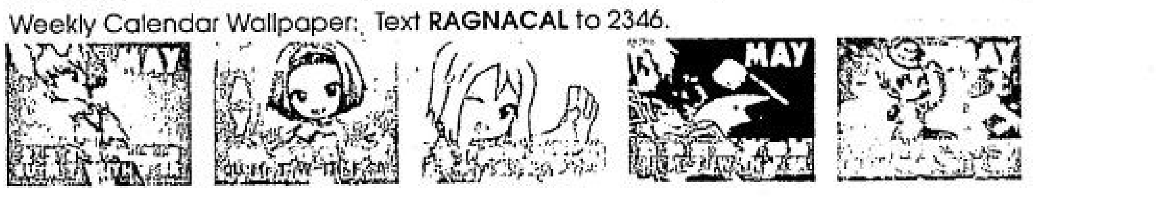

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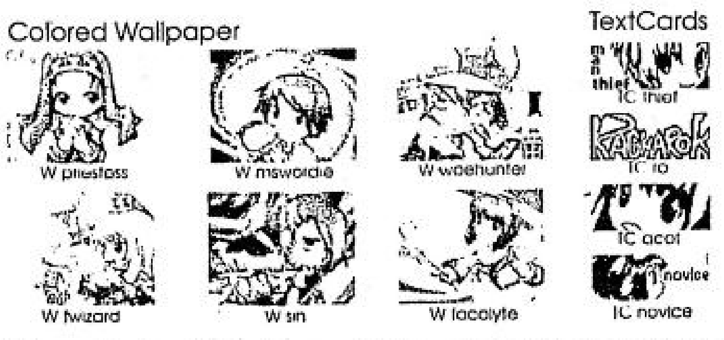

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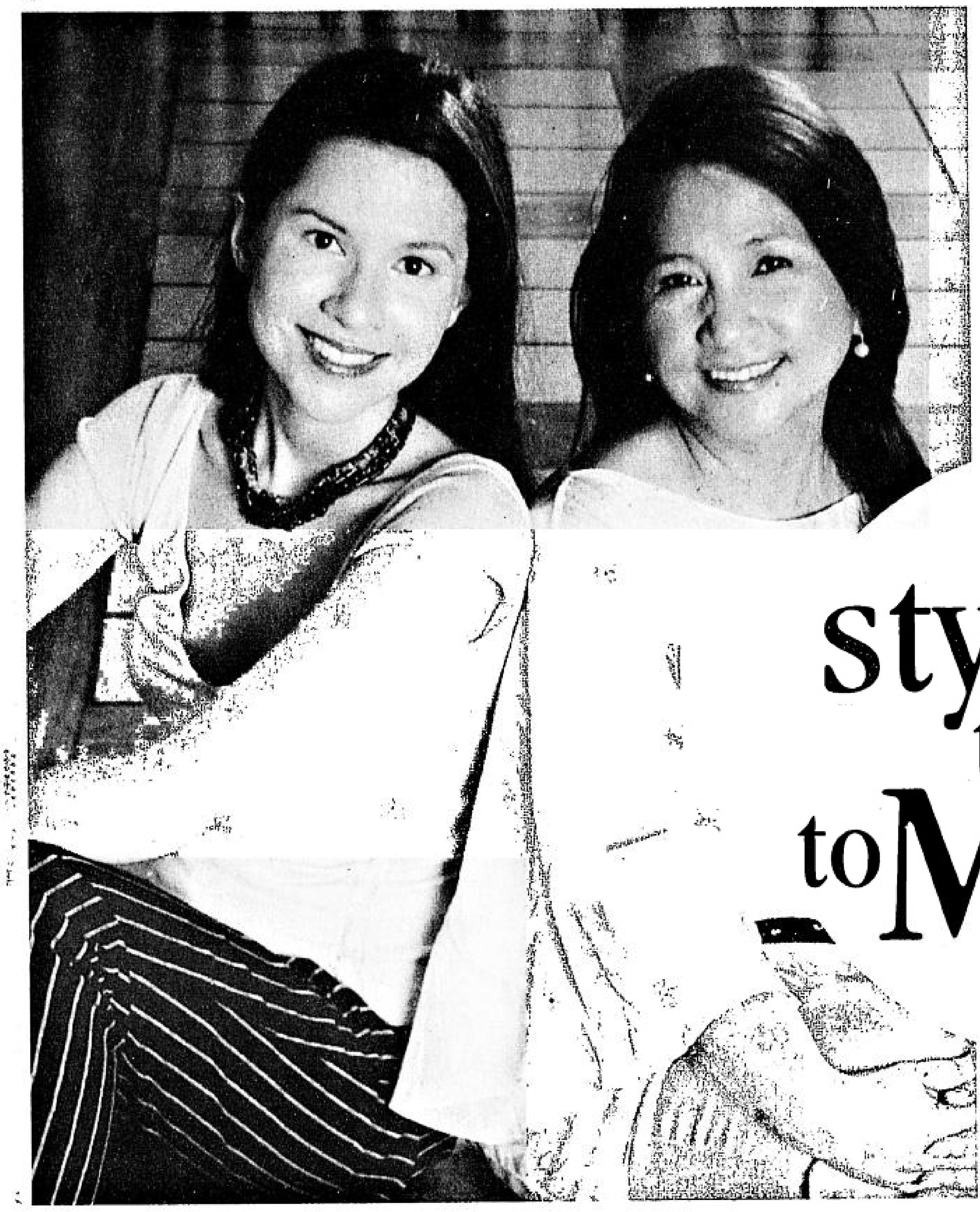

TAN-DEM: Lourdes Tan in a Jessica silk knee-length dress with woven purple belt and mauve Jessica woven pants; Audrey in an A/X sequined top and Polo Ralph Lauren pin-striped pants

A stylish tribute to Mom

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MAKEUP BY CHECHEL JOSON
PHOTOS BY MON MANGILA
STYLING BY GINGGAY DELA
MERCED

LOVING pair: Lourdes in Polo Ralph Lauren pants under a powder blue Jessica top; Audrey in A/X three-fourths top and A/X white pants

From page D1

spoil the *apo*," she says.

The hippest grandma in town and the doyenne of Philippine public relations is able to balance her time more now as her only daughter Ginggay Joven-dela Merced has joined her in her business.

"I have been convincing Ginggay to join my company. But she wanted to experience other things. So I let her experience and learn from others. I let her travel, work on TV, magazines, newspaper and marketing. Anyway, she was still young. Eventually, I decided to convince her to help me in building the business. Recently, I think I've been giving her so much work and been taking time away from her son. To make up for that, I spend time with her son," she says, laughing.

Susan notes, "Noey is a very good child. He's friendly and smart. He shares his toys and says 'hi' to everyone he encounters. Seeing these little things about him makes me proud of how I raised Ginggay. I was with her everyday from the day she gave birth, so I saw how she has changed and matured because of Noey. She puts Noey before anything else. Because of that, I am happy that I have inculcated the proper values in her."

The mother-and-daughter team's relationship is both personal and professional. The roles often overlap, but has never affected their good relations.

"As professionals, we respect each other. The good thing about her being a boss is that she's open to my ideas. She hears me out and values that contribution. As mother and daughter, outside the offices we go about our usual ways. My mom and I never had a formality between us. She's a young person at heart so the relationship is based more on friendship. We enjoy the same things and, more often than not, think almost perfectly alike. There's no surprise if we meet up wearing the exact same outfit. That just sends us laughing."

Susan adds, "We're each other's deepest

TOGETHER at work and play: Susan wears a Gucci black top; Ginggay wears a ribbed Gucci magenta top.

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Mother of th

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Audrey Tan to
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Lourdes fee
only child, but
about it. They'
As she tells it,

SWEET as candy: Lourdes in a striped lilac and pink three-fourths blouse and white Polo Ralph Lauren pants; Audrey in a Polo Ralph Lauren orchid pink ribbed sleeveless top over Polo Ralph Lauren powder blue and white polka-dot skirt

GINA Lopez lovely in a Jessica tube dress with Oriental fabric texture

ONE of the boys: Gina in an Anne Klein gingham blue blouse and Anne Klein white capris, flanked by
in Ralph Lauren Kids pants, pocket shirts and jackets

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vorst critic. She teaches me a
I do her. Through the years, I
at motherhood is not a one-
has to be open to the learn-
gathered even if the person is
ears. That is the true meaning

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nake one of Manila's most eli-
eligible no more. With the an-
her engagement to Rep. Juan
nany are agog, none more so
ving mother, Lourdes Tan.
e the magical moment when
the question during a vacation
he dashing congressman had
udrey's mom for permission.
embers, "Miguel approached
could talk in private. When he
taken aback. I knew he was
nething of that nature. I was
liguel explained to me how
l my daughter and that he
e care of her. I told him that if
y choice, I thought it would be
bit because Audrey is still
er to experience a lot more be-
down. Audrey still wants to go
ke her Masters degree, and
. But Miguel and Audrey are
And they're happy together. I
et in the way of true love, so I
g."
Audrey says she didn't have
he proposal.
l a good job of not slipping on
cially given how close we are.
aying, 'why don't you wear
for your trip and stuff like
n it with Miguel."
s extreme happiness for her
he also tends to be emotional
e been an an inseparable pair.
"We're very close, more than just mother and daughter. We're best friends. We don't have secrets. And we're very sweet."

MOTHER-DAUGHTER team: Susan Joven wears a Jessica velvet jacket and tank top; Ginggay wears a cowl-neck beige Jessica top with ribbon detail and Marks & Spencer black pants.

"When Audrey gets married and lives in a home of her own with Miguel, what I'll miss the most is when she goes to my room every morning to wake me up with a kiss and an 'I love you'. She does the same before going to bed," she adds.

Nevertheless, she's sending off the bride-to-be with all her love.

"That's the kind of mother I am. I'm a homebody and really a homemaker. Audrey is an only child, but I am confident that I have instilled good morals in my daughter. She knows what's wrong and what's right. She is a very good and kind person. She actually fits the role of a politician's wife because she has a soft heart for the poor. She's very helpful to others, and supportive of Miguel. I know she'll be okay."

ALL-WHITE partnership: Susan in a Gucci white top; Ginggay in a DKNY white long-sleeved top over Polo Ralph Lauren pants

sons Roberto and Benjamin

Smother mother with love!

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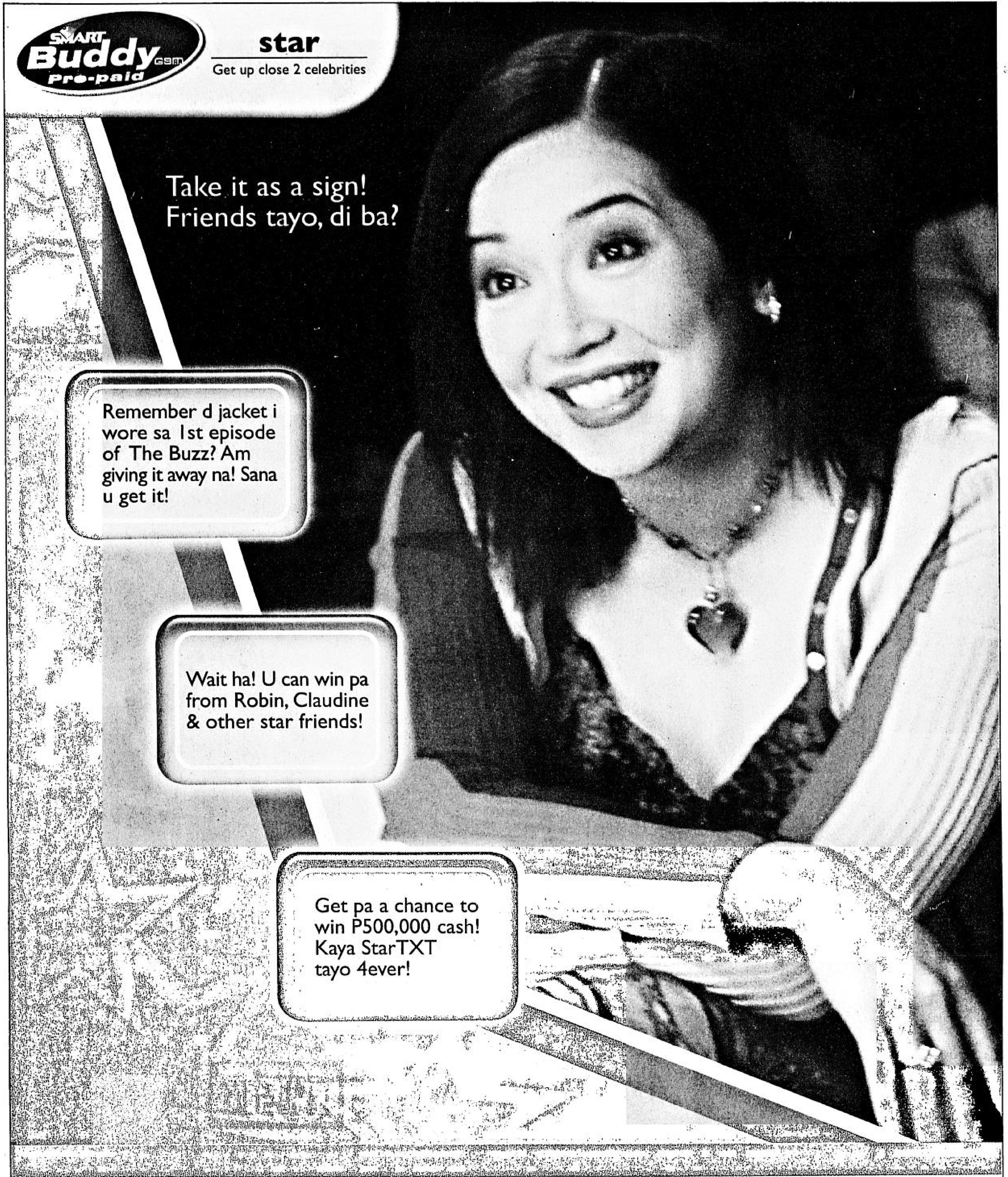
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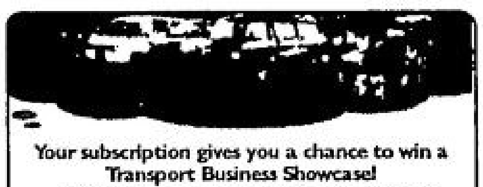
May 3 - Kris Aquino	jacket worn on the 1st episode of the Buzz 2004
May 10 - Robin Padilla	jacket worn on the show *Basta't Kasama Kita*
May 17 - Claudine Baretto	special bag that she used in the movie *Milan*
May 24 - Aubrey Miles	hat, bags, shoes and top that she wore on MTB
May 31 - Maui Taylor	favorite piece of lingerie
June 7 - Patrick Garcia	jacket worn to his first ever Star Awards
June 14 - Marvin Agustin	pair of pants and polo that he wore on his show To the Max
June 21 - Regine Velasquez	stylish & chic skirt worn by Asia's songbird
June 28 - Joyce Jimenez	a cherished blouse from the Crush ng Bayan
July 5 - Dominic Ochoa	pair of Oakley shades
July 12 - Heart Evangelista	necklace, a personal favorite



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NEWLYWEDS Robert and Rizza (née Duran) Collantes

COLLANTES-DURAN NUPTIALS

Altar tryst for therapists

By Rowena C. Burgos

IT was in 1997 when a mutual friend introduced Roberto Carlos Barcelona Collantes to a fellow Physical Therapy student, Maria Rizza Estevez Duran.

Enamored with her beauty, Robert invited Rizza to his birthday party. After a year, they officially became a couple. Robert was supposed to leave for the United States to pursue his master's degree, but opted to stay just to be with Rizza. Even though the two studied in different schools, they managed to find time for each other.

In 2002, Robert went to the US. Realizing that he wanted to take their relationship a step further, he came back a year later. Having told his mother of his plan to get married, they began to look for the "perfect" engagement ring. But it took a month before Robert proposed to Rizza.

At that time, the two were saying their novena to the Blessed Sacrament. Robert was unusually praying for the longest time. It turned out he was memorizing his lines that would change their lives forever. As soon as the other devotees left the chapel, Robert then took out the ring and popped out his lines.

Elegant and memorable

On March 8, the couple exchanged "I do's" in a ceremony officiated by brothers Rev. Msgr. Honesto Moraleda and Fr. Ben Moraleda at the Santuario de San Antonio

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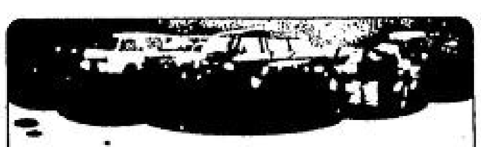

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Altar tryst for therapist

OFF to Hawaii after their Boracay honeymoon

THE COUPLE with Rizza's parents and friends of the family

RIZZA and Robert with relatives and guests

From page E1

Parish. The sextet by Legato strings naded the couple and the guests.

Rizza, daughter of Dr. Jose J. Dura Evelyn E. Duran, was radiant in a *piña* embroidered with *calado* and embel with beads, crystals, sequins and pear train was 3 ½ meters long, which was loped all along the edge with embroider *calado*. The wedding ensemble was fin with a 10-meter illusion tulle veil scat with rhinestones.

Executed by Peanuts Pamintuan, gown was designed by Rizza's mom a embroidery was created by Robert's m Rizza also wore a handmade heirloom of freshwater seed pearls, Swarovski tals, Diamante flowers and vintage beads. It was called "the Rizza tiara" by lyn Calloway of Thumbelina Brides Ca nia.

Robert, son of Modesto S. Collante Consuelo B. Collantes, was dashing in a Donna Karan tuxedo.

The principal sponsors were Sec. M A. Roxas II, Hon. Ramon B. Cardenas, cente H. Salvador, Dr. Luis D. Dizon, Senen S. De Santos, Alex Van Bou, Vi Fadrilan, Frederick D. Acuna, Eugen Apostol, Trina Y. Kalaw, Carol N. Villav cio, Dr. Corazon C. Jose, Diana M. Barc Edith L. Oliveros, Alma L. Bunag and Jos Dayco.

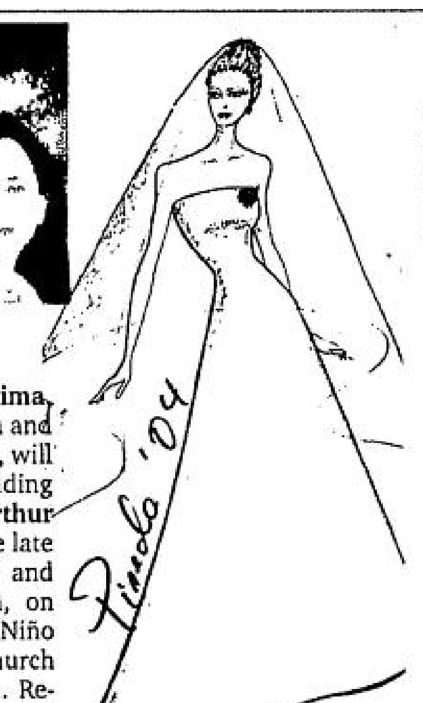
Best man was the groom's very good f Dr. Jeffrey L. Clemente, and the maid of was the bride's younger sister, Geline ran.

Groomsmen were Enrico T. Magdato, N. Yap, and John Michael B. Collantes. B maids were Elizabeth D. Estevez, Christ Tecson and Melizza B. Collantes.

The candle sponsors were Dr. Paul caraz and Dr. Perla E. Duran; veil spo Marvin G. Ventura and Dr. Patricia caraz; and cord sponsors, Dr. Jose E.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*



GARCIA-DE LIMA

Maricel de Lima, daughter of **Efren** and **Theresa de Lima**, will exchange wedding vows with **Arthur Garcia**, son of the late **Saturnino** and **Veronida Garcia**, on May 8 at the Sto. Niño de Cebu Parish Church in Biñan, Laguna. Reception will follow at the Stone Crest Clubhouse, San Pedro, Laguna.

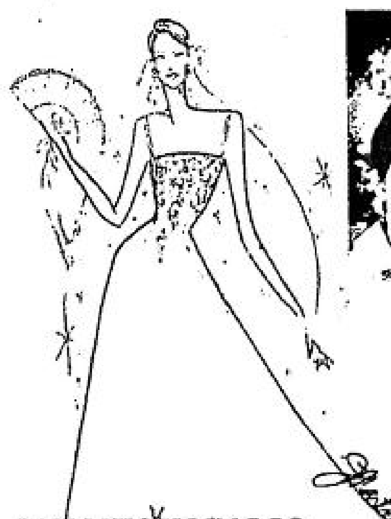
Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ecru American satin. The strapless bodice is embellished with crystal pins while the chapel train is anchored on the waist by a cascade of hand-made cabbage roses. A veil of illusion tulle held by floral-shaped Swarovski crystals completes the ensemble.

BACANI-ABLOLA

Louie Bacani and **Evelyn Ablola** will tie the knot on May 8, at the St. Pancratius Chapel, Paco Park, Manila. Fr. **Anton Pascual** and Fr. **Louie Nieto** will officiate the wedding. Reception will follow at the Pearl Manila Hotel. **Jason Borja** designed the bridal gown.

BANQUILES-SEDAYA

Zernan C. Banquiles, son of **Renato** and **Yolanda Banquiles**, will exchange vows with **Ethel B. Sedaya**, daughter of **Pedro** and **Consorcia Sedaya**, on May 2 at Saint Jude Thaddeus Shrine, Cotta, Lucena City. Reception will follow at The New Cherry Blossom grand banquet hall, Enriquez corner Rizal Streets, Lucena City.



SAN LUIS-YOINGCO

Michael M. San Luis, son of **Melchor** and Din **San Luis** of Marikina City, will wed **Jeannette Yoingco**, daughter of **Hernando Jr.** of Philipp Bank of Communications and Efraima Yoingco Bangko Sentral. The ceremony will be held on Ma at Ellinwood Malate Church. The reception will low at the Maynilad Ballroom of the Manila Hotel.

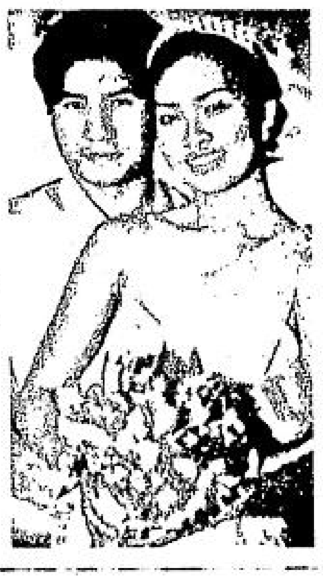
Galatea by **Jontie and Nikki Martinez** is the br gown designer, video and photography by Jas Classic, flowers by Love in Bloom, music by gape wedding coordination by Grand Banquets Netwo

BERMUDEZ-BACALANGCO

Nelo B. Bermudez, son of **Manuel** and **Corazon Bermudez**, will marry **Flordeliz F. Bacalangco**, daughter of **Felixberto** and **Victoriana Bacalangco**, on May 29 at St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City. Reception will follow at Grand Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Manila.

RECHMANN-SANTOS

Wilma Santos and **Peter Rechmann** exchanged vows last Dec. 22 at San Agustin Church, Manila. Reception followed at Shangri-La Hotel, Makati.



MENDOZA-SALVADOR

Patrick K. Mendoza, son of engineer and Ms. **Manuel Mendoza**, exchanged vows with **Cherry Lyn H. Salvador**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Nestor T. Salvador**, on April 17 at the St. Francis of Assisi Chapel, Quezon City. Reception followed at Coral Tree Garden (Venue 4) at Fernwood Gardens, Quezon City.

Ronald Cabochan designed the bride's gown.

TAGUBUAN-ANTOL

Nereo Tagubuan, son P/Sr. Insp. Anto **Tagubuan Sr.** and **Zena Habana**, exchanged v with **Meriam Antol** daughter of **Ariston Anto** and **Marilyn Baguistan**, April 17 at the Green Ho Brgy. Apulid, Paniqui, Tar It was officiated by Rev. **Zaldy Gomez**.

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and Dr. Rose C. De Asa. The ring bearer was Miguel Luis Antonio C. Brobio; coin bearer Raphael Luis Enrique C. Brobio, Bible bearer Mark Daniel C. Summer. Flower girls were Bianca Nicole D. Alcaraz, Maria Alissandra B. Intengan and Isabella Coleen J. Corleto.

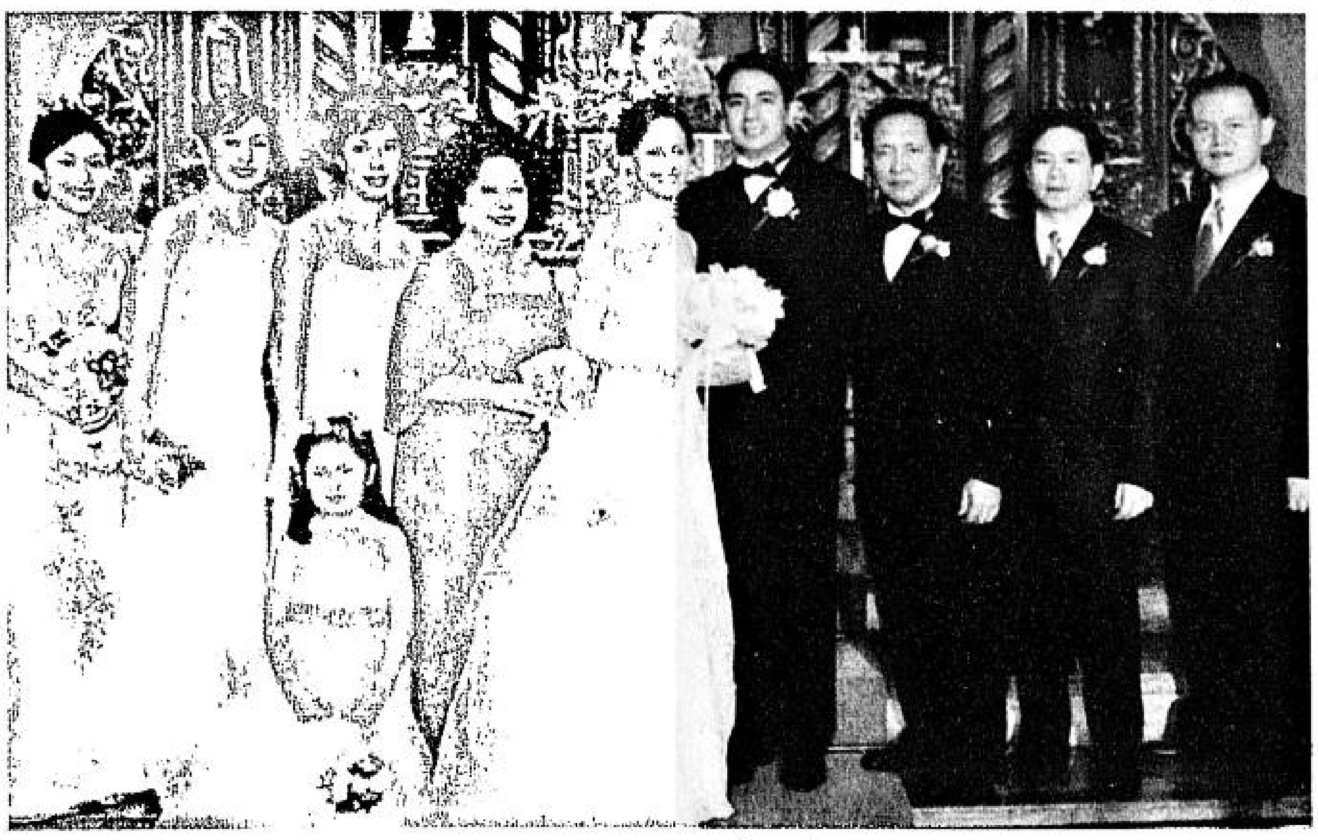
Strictly formal

Some 500 relatives and friends from here and abroad attended the strictly formal black tie dinner and dance reception at Manila Polo Club. Nonoy Lopez and his band kept the guests on their feet the whole night. But it was five-year-old Bianca Nicole Duran Alcaraz who stole the show when she initiated the ceremonial toast.

Rosaries made of hand-painted beads designed and created by the bride's sister and maid of honor Geline were distributed as souvenirs. Photography and video were done by Jorge's Portrait.

The couple went to Boracay for their honeymoon and will soon leave for Hawaii.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



THE COUPLE with the Duran family

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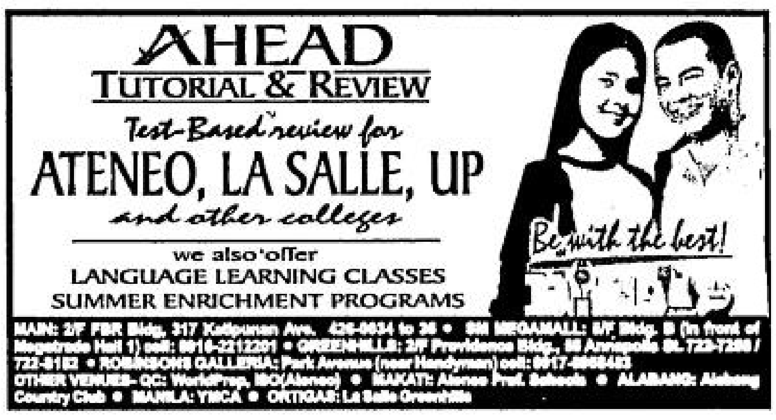
RIZZA and Robert with their parents, Dr. Jose and Evelyn Duran, and Consuelo and Modesto Collantes



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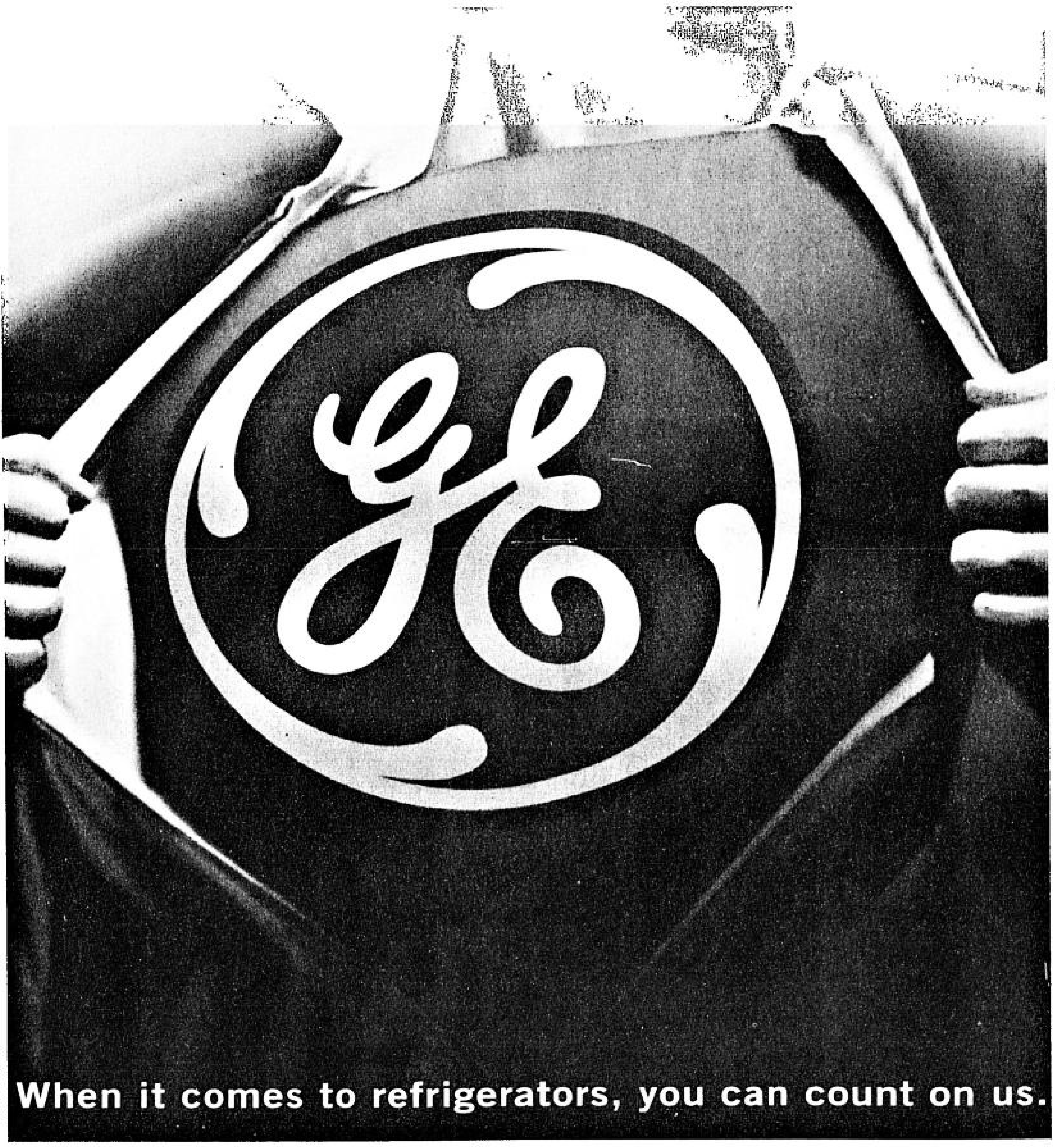

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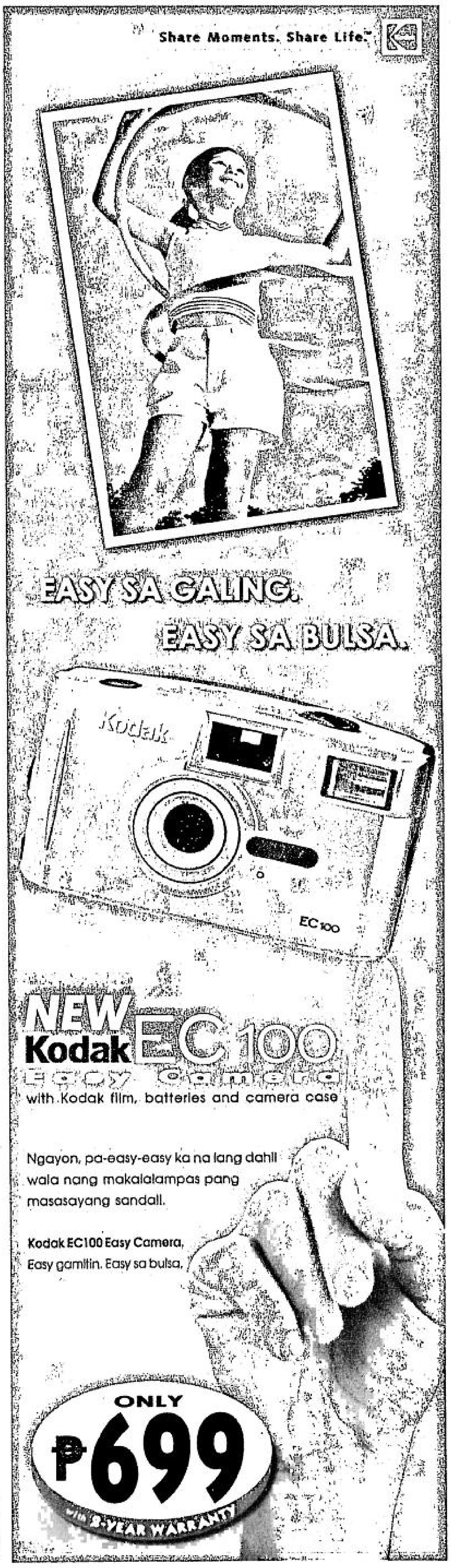

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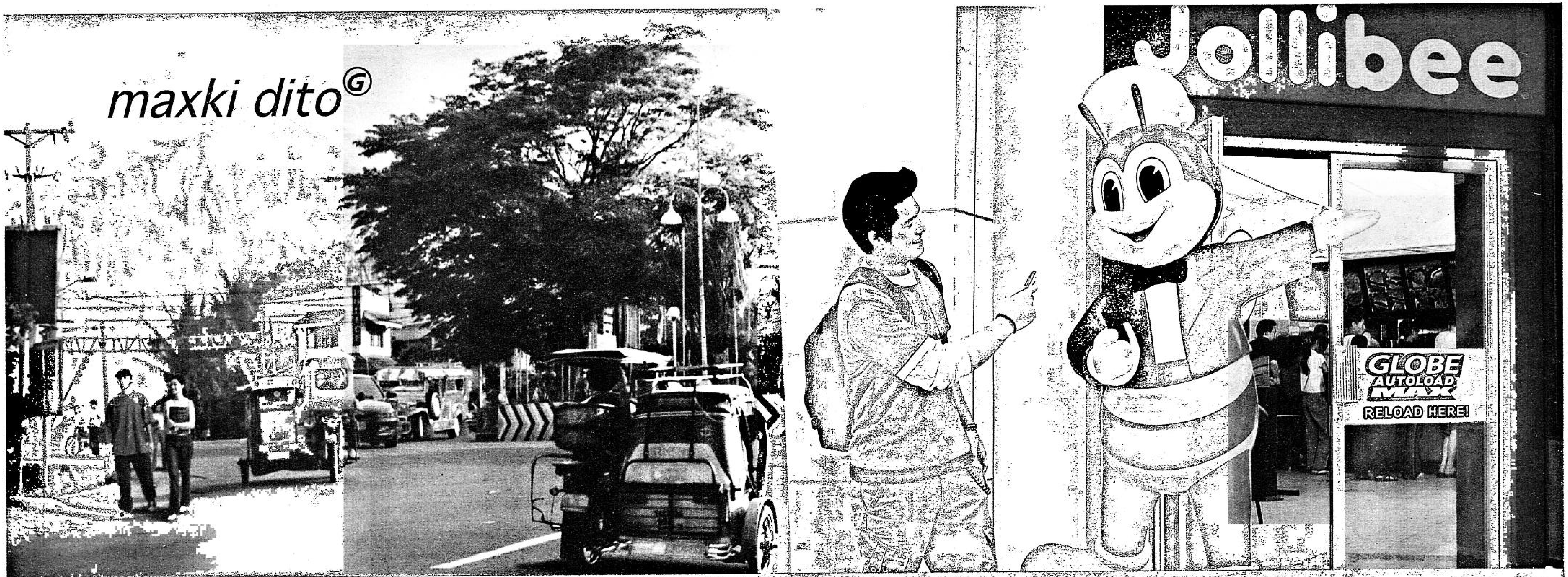

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Still high on Tagaytay after all these years

TAGAYTAY'S exclusive playground and residential community

Dreams do come true and, in his case, Willy Ocier made it happen for members of the 10-year-old Tagaytay Highlands, too

Text and photos
by Anne A. Jambora

IT was love at first sight.

On a foggy day in June 1989, Belle Corp. vice chair and chair of The Highlands Willy Ocier planted himself at the peak of a Tagaytay property he had acquired. In the nippy early morning weather this city is famous for, the then nameless young man, barely 31, was dreaming—and dreaming so outrageously big.

Ocier had the ludicrous idea of constructing an exclusive, world-class golf country club getaway for entire families, with manicured rolling hills, breathtaking landscapes, high-end residences, superb restaurants, a sports club and more.

Nearly no one believed him. Everyone thought he was crazy. Ocier couldn't blame them either—not then, not now.

His luxurious club would need about 1 million gallons of water per day at a time when the whole of Tagaytay merely had 300,000 gallons. Landscape had to be carved out of nothing, roads constructed, power lines supplied and water pipelines assembled without financial support from the local government. There was also the task of developing a golf course in an extremely complicated terrain. Above all, Ocier promised a cable-car system when three other cable-car developers had previously failed to deliver.

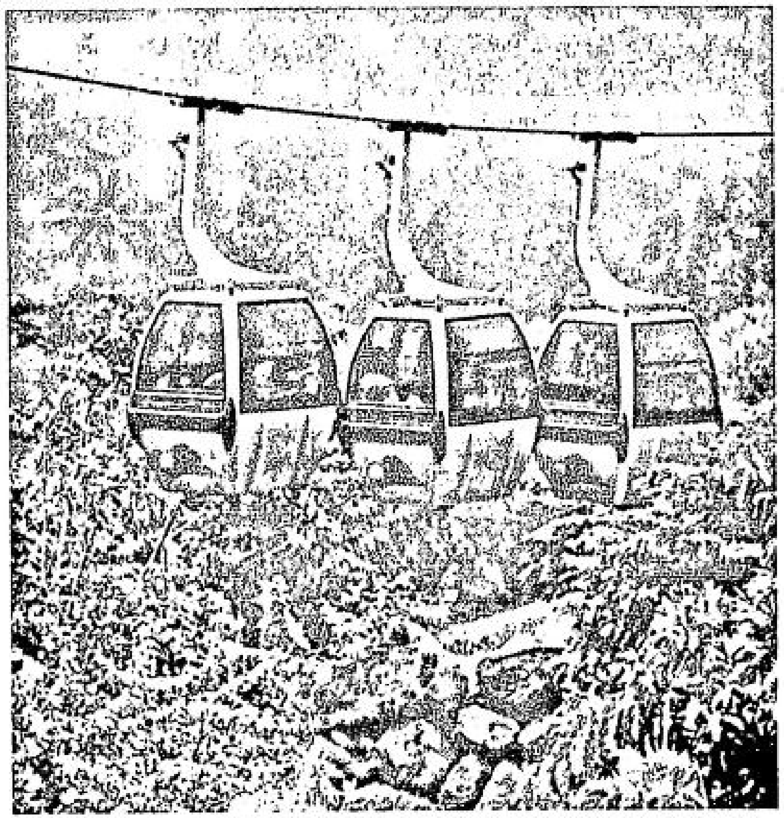
Two fools

Despite all, Ocier found another driven dreamer for a partner, businessman Bobby Ongpin, and together they survived one Herculean task after another. "We were two fools working together and somehow it clicked," he recalls.

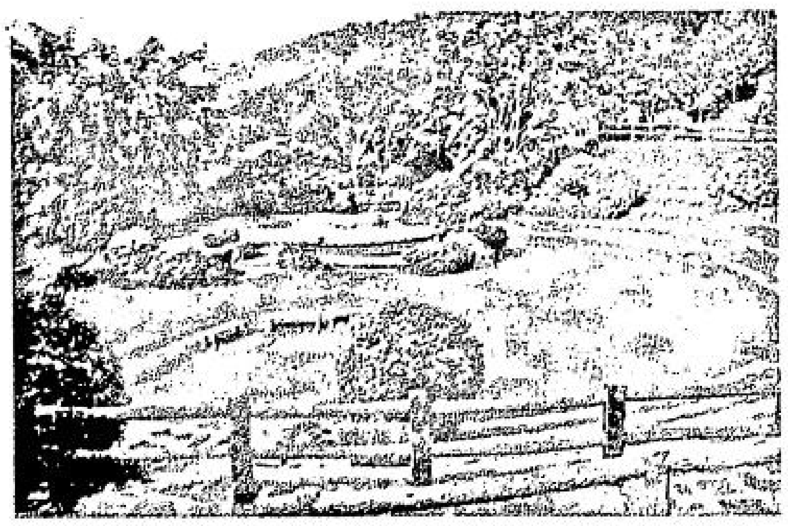
It took more than one trip to the peak, and a whole lot of patience, for Ocier to convince himself he did the right thing—in this case, purchasing a P100-million property. Like pursuing a most elusive lady who coyly teased him so, he would good-naturedly wait, and wait some more, for the fog to clear, where, as always, a panoramic view of the Taal Lake and the hills below would be awarded to him for one brief minute before once again disappearing in the thick mist.

Those fleeting encounters with Mother Nature, however, strengthened his resolve to build his dreams. And so he came back to the peak day after day. "Tagay

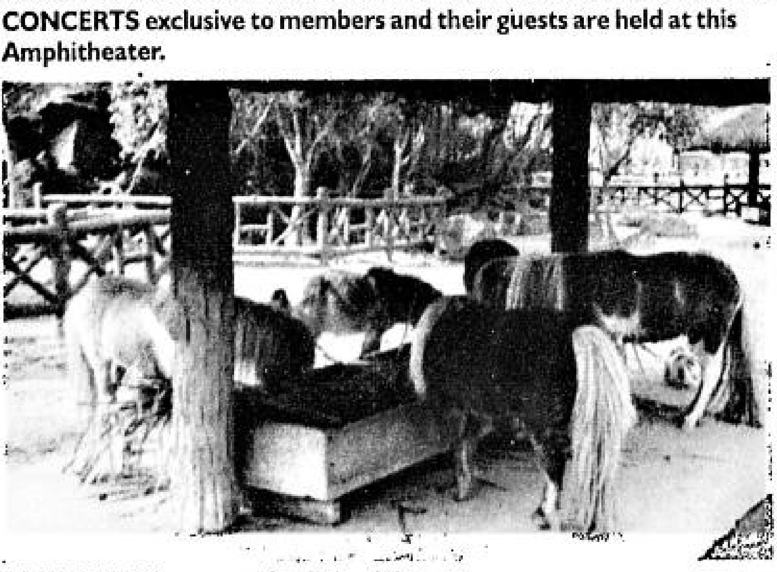
STILL/ F2



THE MAN who designed Robert Redford's Sundance Ski Resort also developed The Highlands' cable-car system.



CONCERTS exclusive to members and their guests are held at this Amphitheater.



MINIATURE horses at the Animal Farm

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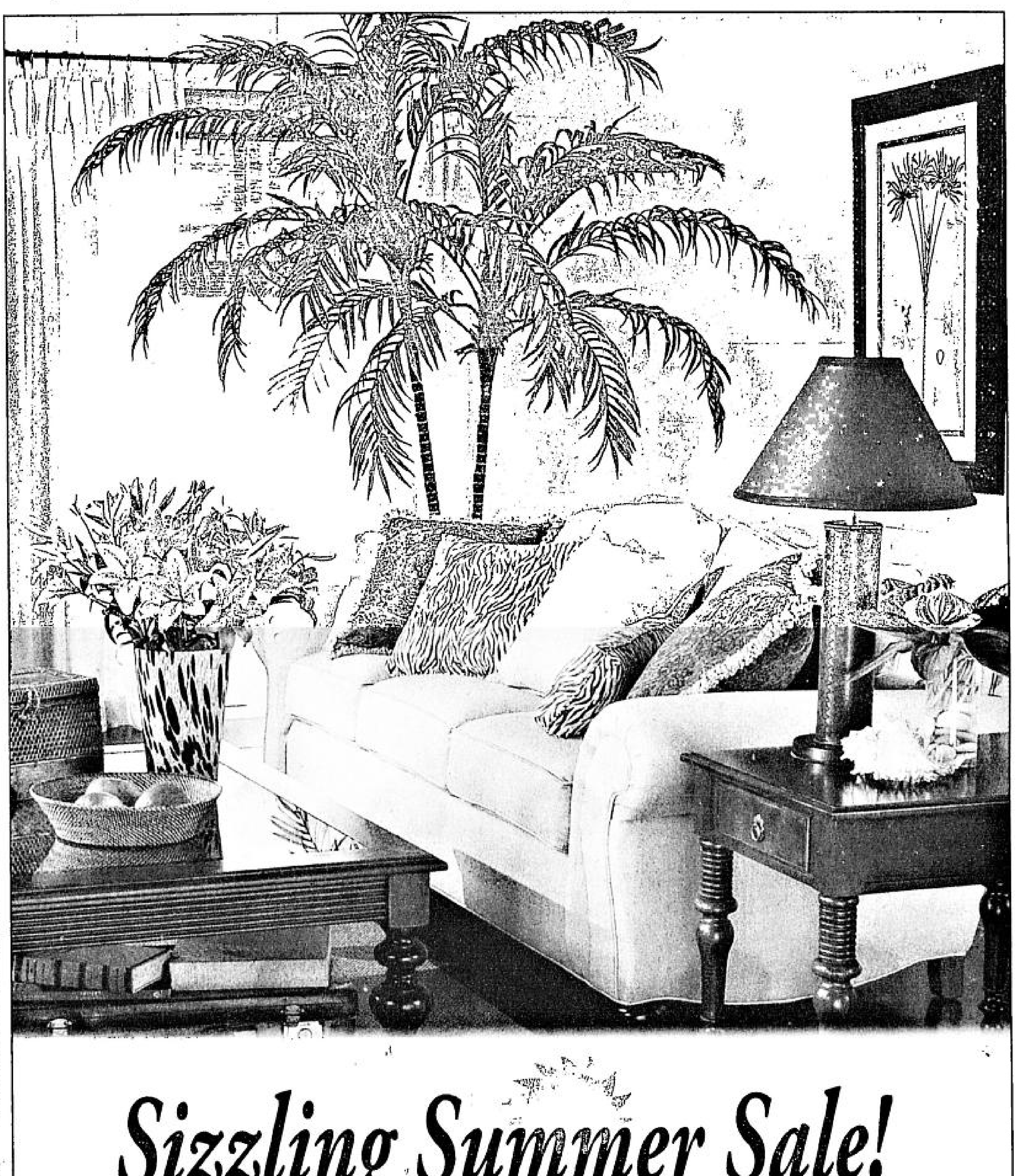

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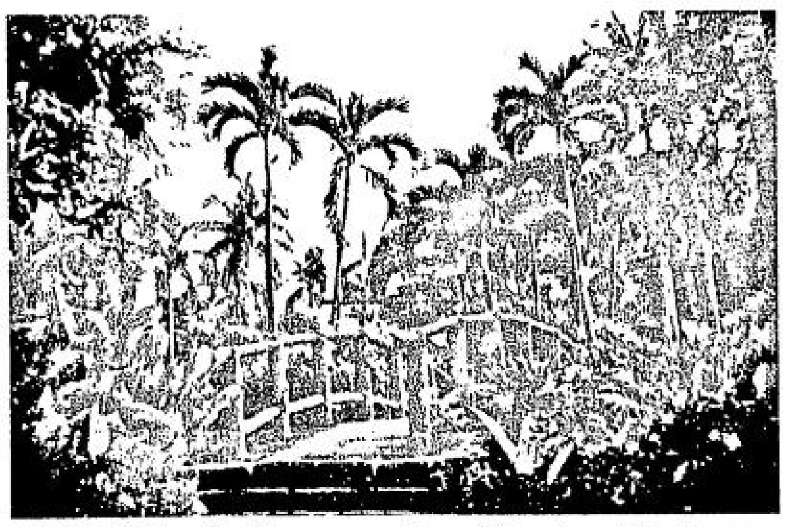
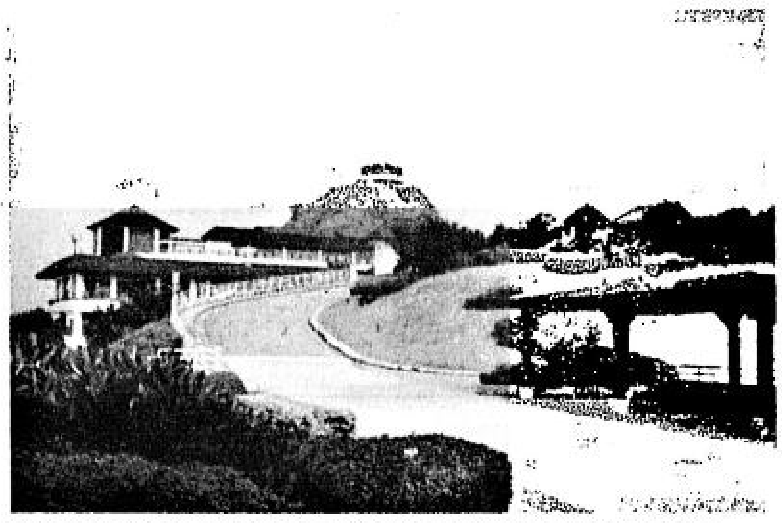


TEENAGERS and families camp out for a night or two at the Camp Highlands and Cottage Grove.

THE VERDANT surroundings are a welcome break from the concrete jungle.



THE PEAK as seen from The Belle View, a 12-story condominium leaning against a hill overlooking Taal Lake

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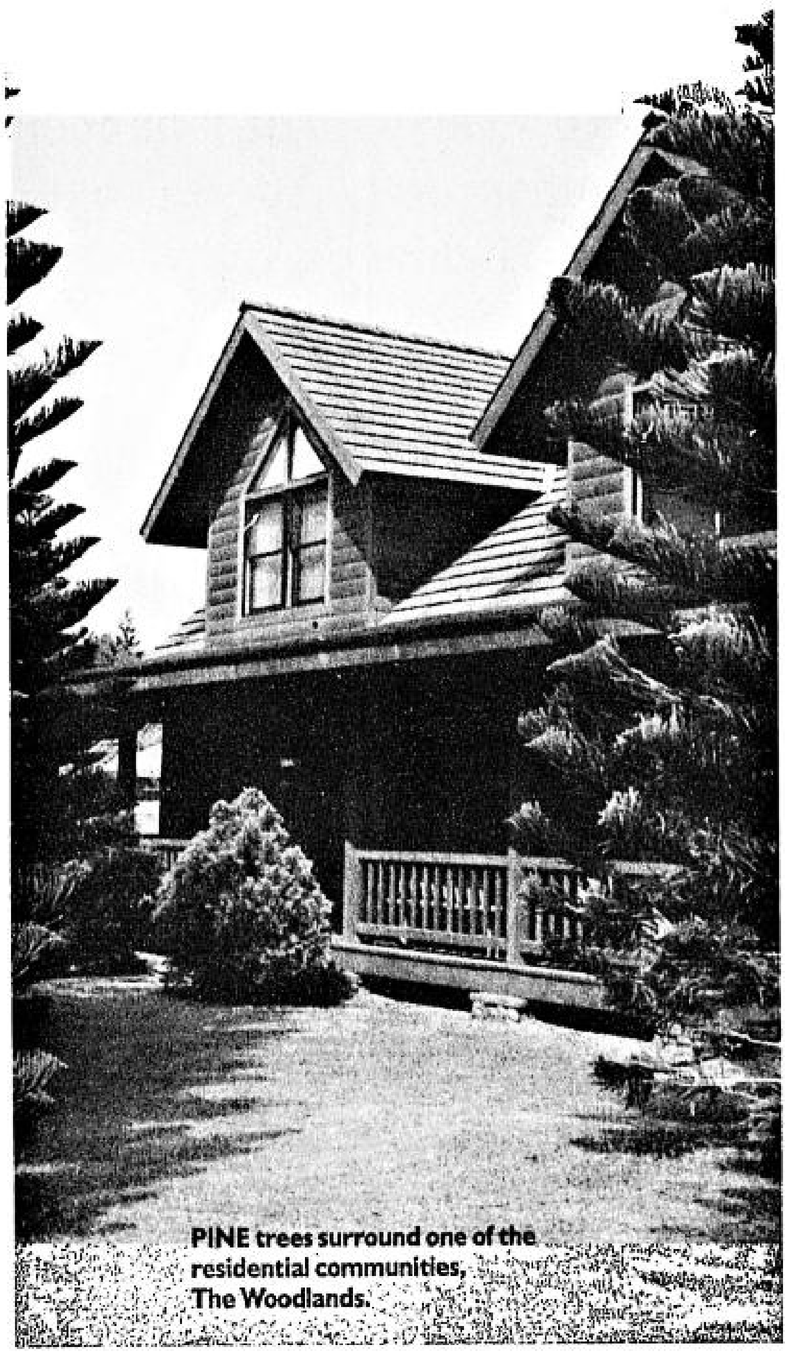

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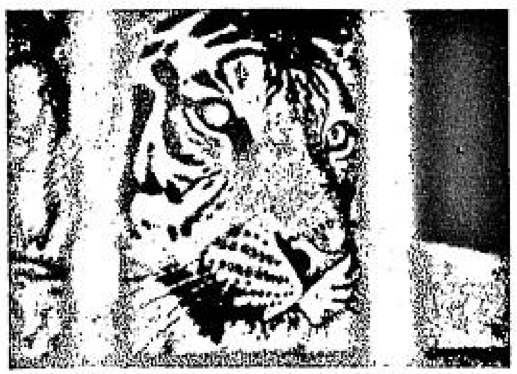

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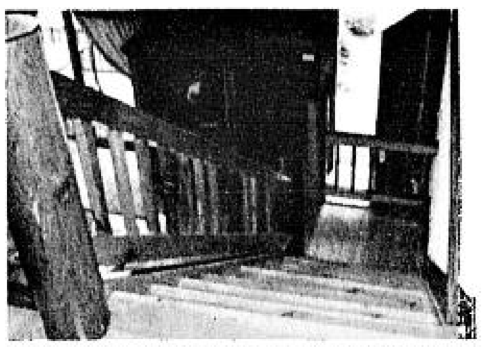

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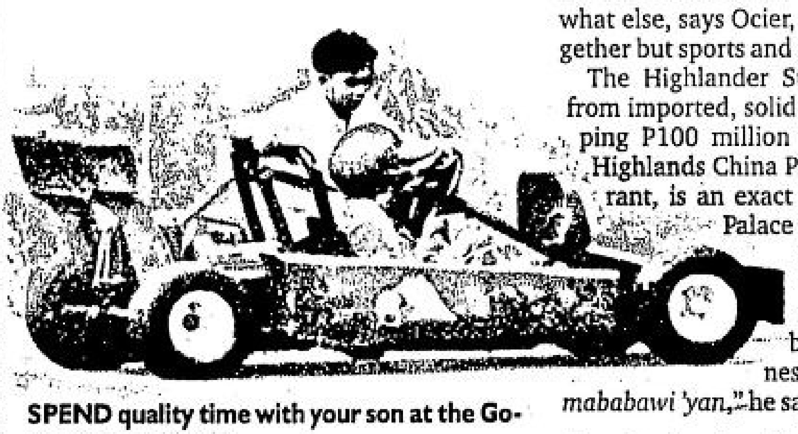

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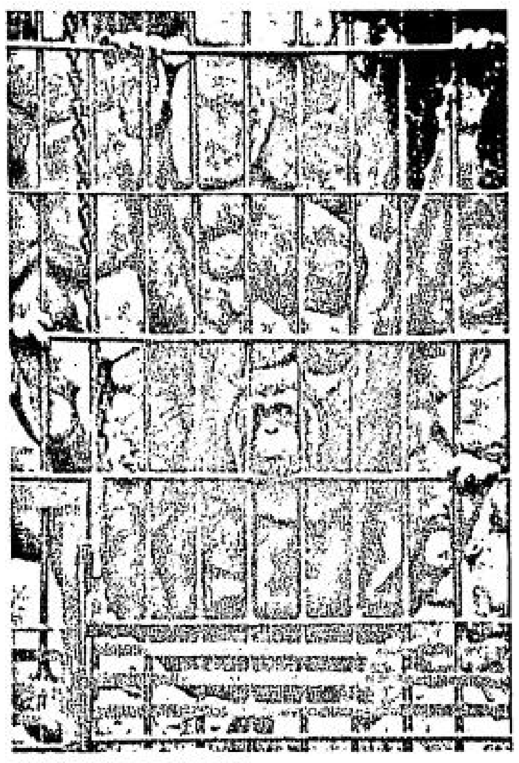

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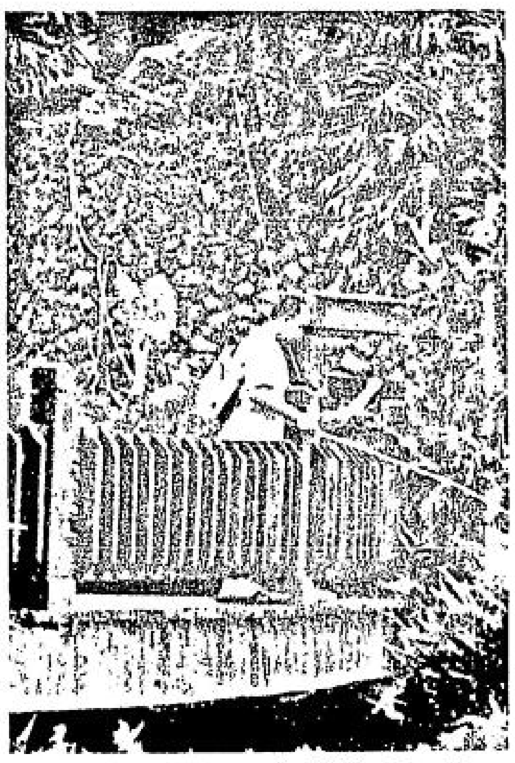

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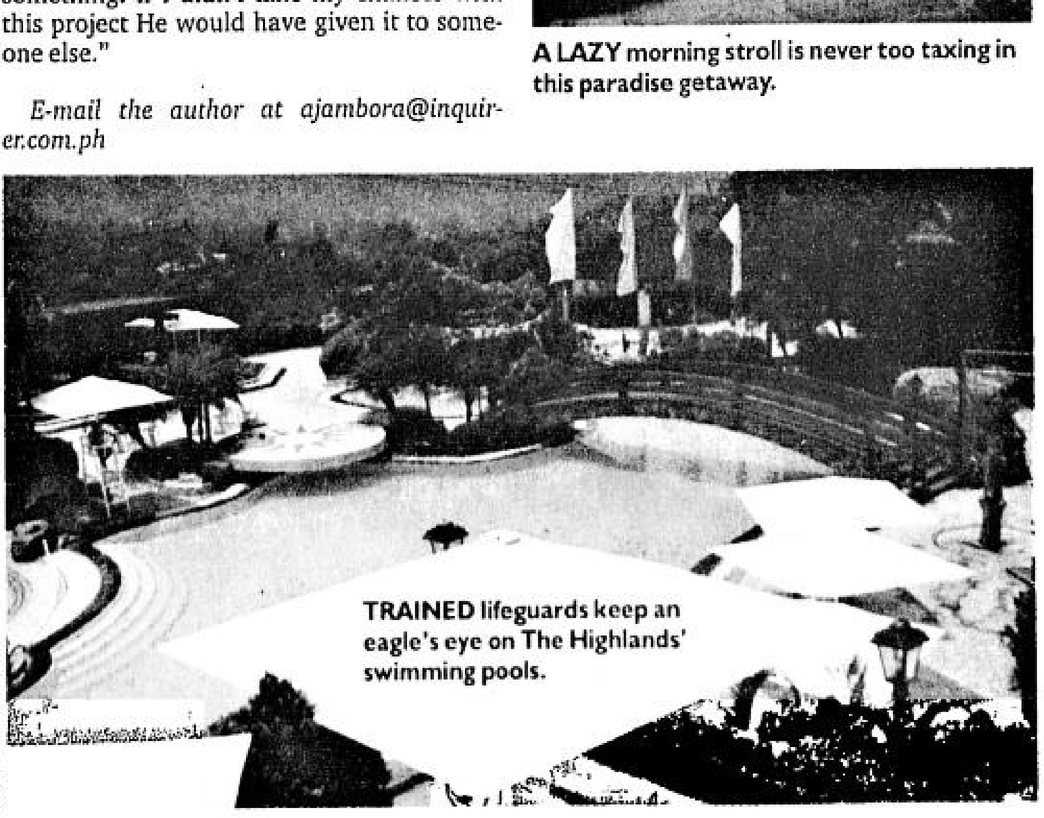

TRAINED lifeguards keep an eagle's eye on The Highlands' swimming pools.

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KOALISYON NG KATAPATAN AT KARANASAN SA KINABUKASAN

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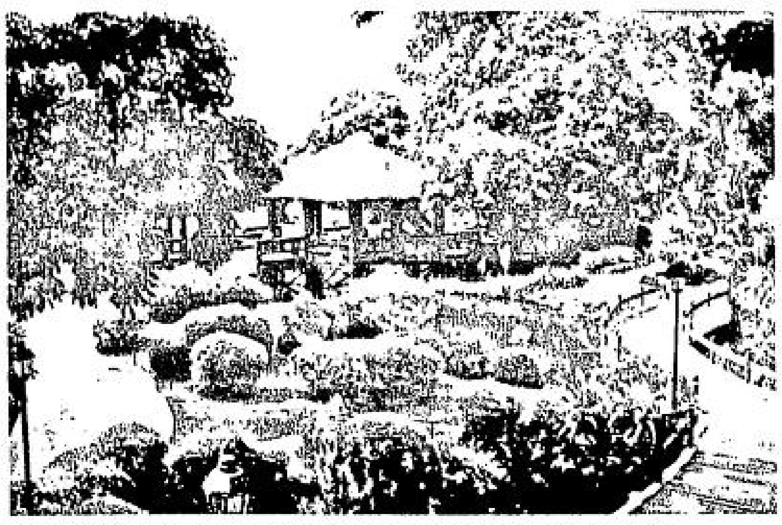
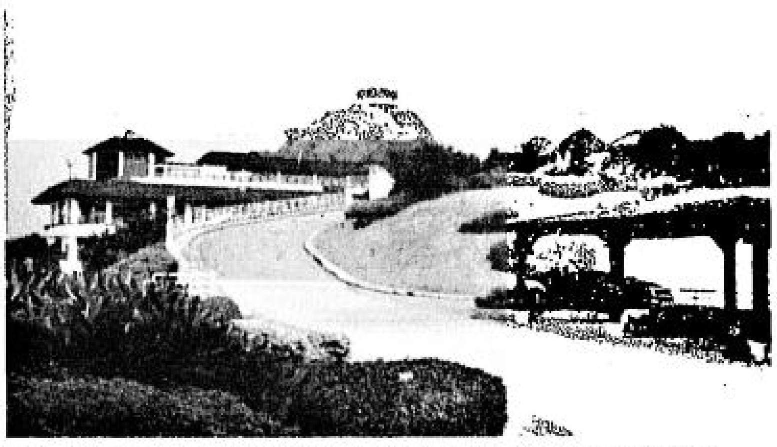
TEENAGERS and families camp out for a night or two at the Camp Highlands and Cottage Grove.



THE VERDANT surroundings are a welcome break from the concrete jungle.



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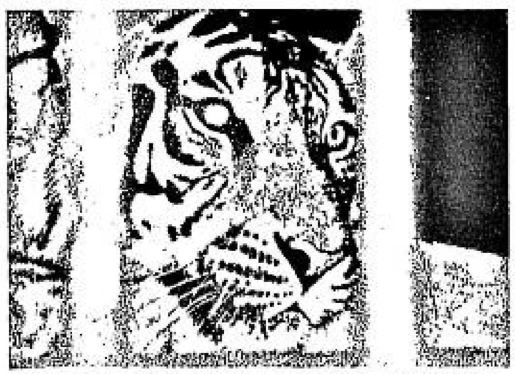

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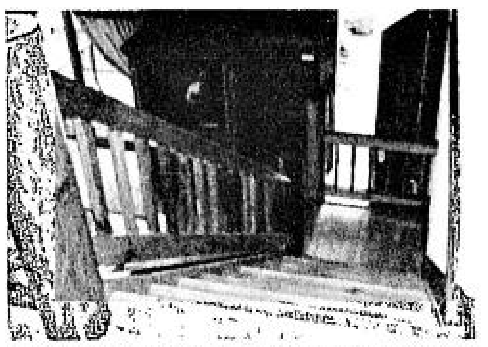

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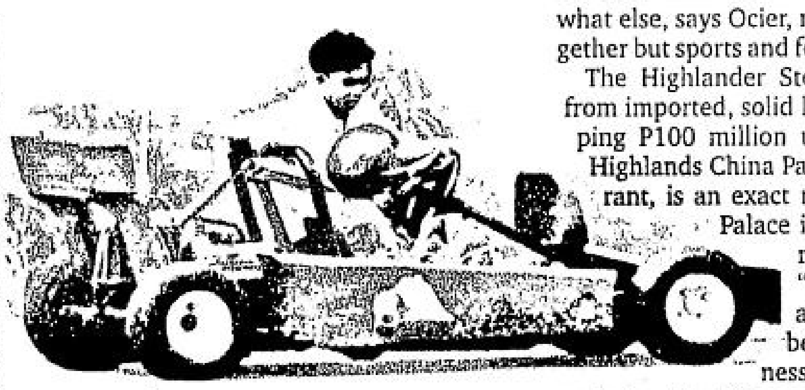

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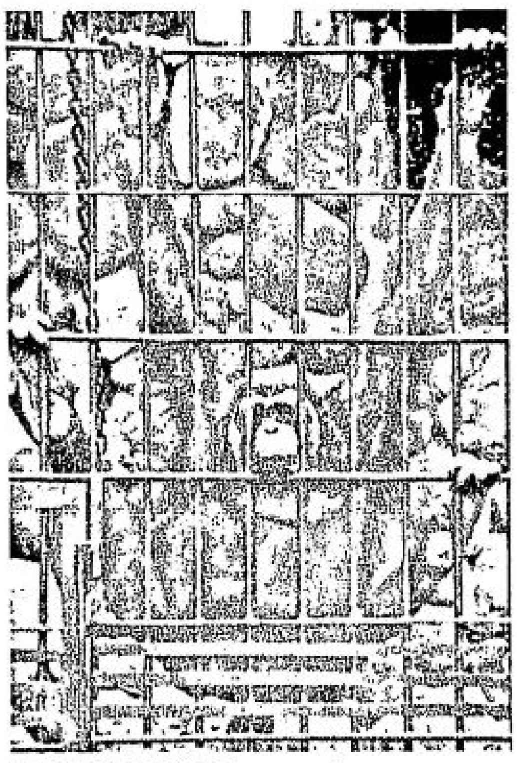

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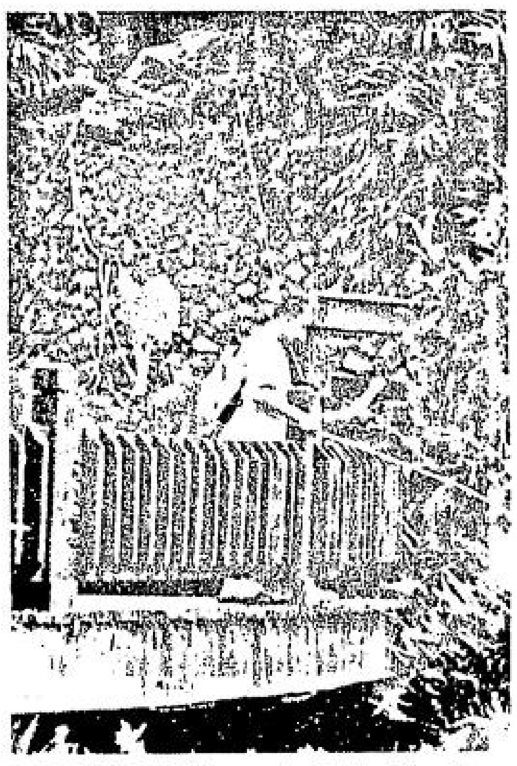

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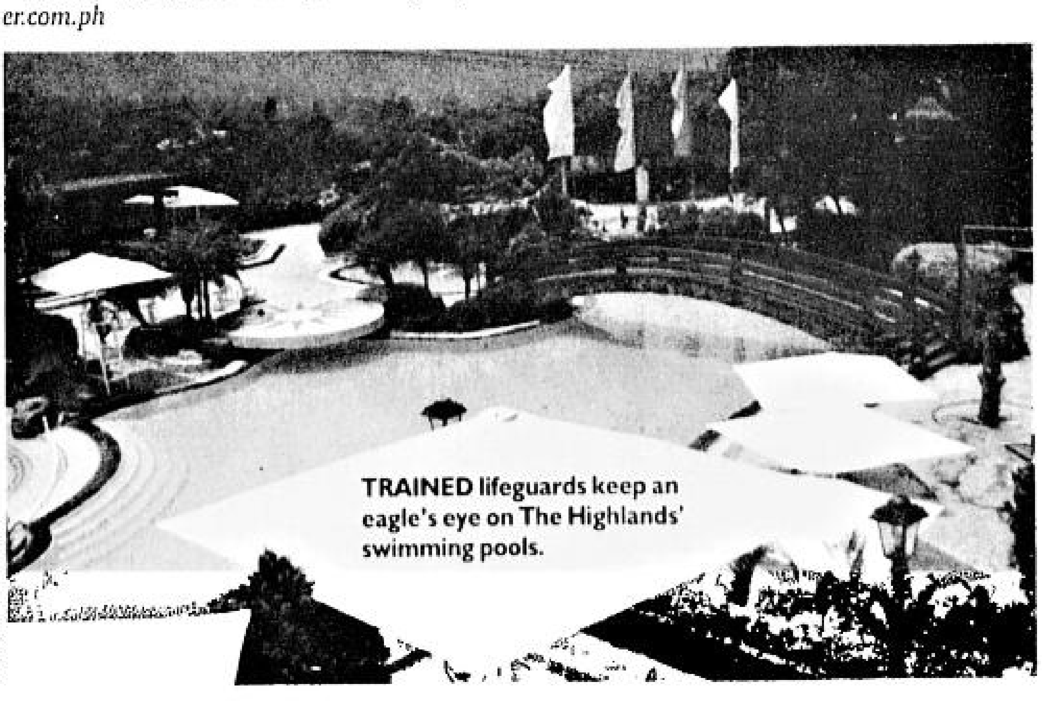

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In need of personal counseling

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I think you're the one who can help me with my problem. I used to tell my problems to my mother, but she died seven years ago.

Is it possible to consult with you personally? It will take only less than an hour and I'm willing to pay. I hope you will grant my request.

DANTE

I'm flattered by your request. I'm afraid, however, that I can't oblige you. That's because I don't consider myself adequately trained or experienced to help people that way.

While I've been writing an advice column for more than a decade, I don't believe that is even close to being immersed in the immediate and close person-to-person interactions that occur during personal counseling.

We don't have space for me to elaborate on how different the two modes are, so I hope you'll just take my word that I have your best interest in mind in suggesting you call Crisis Line at 8937603.

Crisis Line gives free, confidential counseling by telephone. It is open 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. It has trained English- or Tagalog-speaking counselors who will listen to you with compassion and help you understand and solve your problem. It is non-sectarian and non-judgmental, and welcomes calls from people of all ages.

You haven't told me what your specific problem is, but all the same I am confident that Crisis Line can help you. It deals with all kinds of emotional and psychological problems related to a person's relationships (with other people and with himself), work and even his/her interaction with the world in general.

In case you feel you still need help from professionals or institutions, Crisis Line can also refer you to them. It has an extensive data bank of counselors, psychiatrists and psychologists for face-to-face consultations, as well as rehabilitation centers and providers of other support services around Metro Manila.

Crisis Line has been providing this public service for two decades now. So to you and others in similar circumstances, I repeat: call Crisis Line. You'll be in good hands.

And while I'm at it, I am also taking this opportunity to pass on the Crisis Line's call for volunteers from various professional and cultural backgrounds to serve as counselors. They will be trained before they are assigned to handle phone calls. Those who cannot serve as volunteers may still contribute to this worthy endeavor through donations.

Contact In Touch Community Services Inc. at 8937606/8931893, or write to intouch@i-manila.com.ph. You may also get in touch with Meena Sehwani, Crisis Line coordinator, at 0918-7428089 or via crisisline@i-manila.com.ph.

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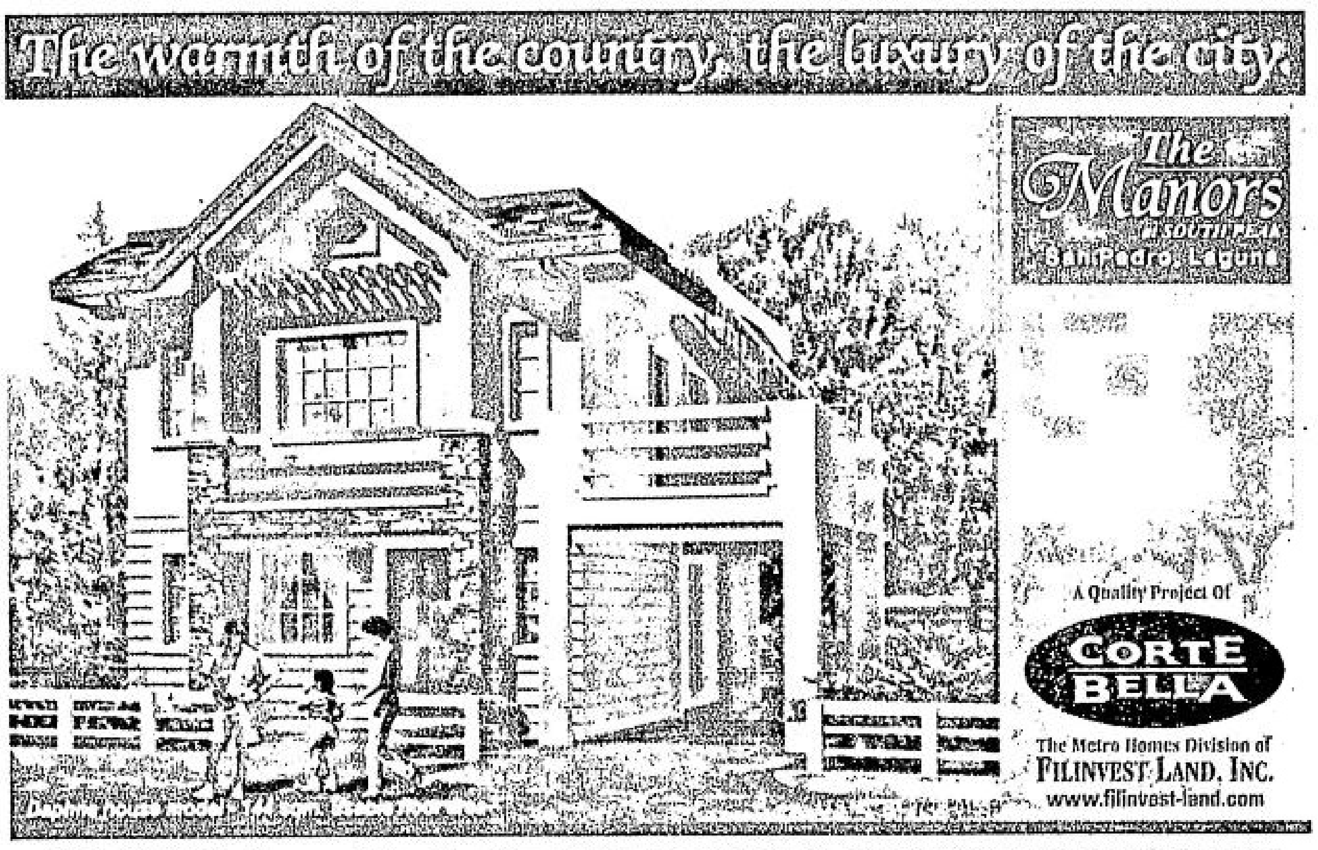
P/SUPT. and Mrs. Basilio T. Pioquinto (RET) of Arquiza Drive Mampang, Zamboanga City announce the engagement of their daughter, Aleth, to Errol C. Ledesma, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodolfo Y. Ledesma of Victorias City, Negros Occidental. The wedding will be on June 10, 2004 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Zamboanga City.

ADVT.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Spain marks another St. James Year

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

WHEN the feast day of St. James the Apostle falls on a Sunday, the Spaniards mark the Año de Compostelano or Holy Year of St. James.

So this year, pilgrims from all over the world will again converge in Santiago (Spanish for James) de Compostela, some walking from the Pyrenees mountains on the boundary of Spain and France. They will hold a clamshell and a staff to show they are going to the Cathedral of St. James, patron saint of Spain.

During the Holy Year, the Church grants the faithful spiritual graces. It is also an invitation to those who have abandoned the Christian life to return to the fold.

When we visited Santiago de Compostela in July 1997, our tour guide told us we were called to go there. We went up the platform where the saint's statue stood and embraced him from the back. I asked for healing because at that time I had a bad cough. If I go there again, it will be in thanksgiving because I am well now.

Adam's Travel, this early, is already preparing the trip to Santiago de Compostela. The pilgrimage also includes Amsterdam, Paris, Lourdes, Santander, Torrelavega, Fatima, Barcelona, Montserrat Shrine in the mountain, Nice, Monte Carlo, Pisa, Florence, Assisi and Rome. Departure is July 13. Call Adam's Travel at 5211651 or 5211638 for more details.

Servant of God

The Opus Dei's first member was Isidoro Zorzano, an industrial engineer originally from Buenos Aires, but who migrated to Madrid where he worked in a railway company. Isidoro joined Opus Dei on Aug. 24, 1930. He died July 15, 1943, the eve of the feast day of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Since he was such a holy man, he inspires me to pray and ask for his intercession in the conversion of people who have left the faith or are leading lives not pleasing to the Lord. Isidoro did the Work despite the difficulties caused by the Spanish Civil War, which broke out on June 18, 1936.

Fr. Josemaria Escriva, at that time, sought refuge in the Honduras consulate with other members of the Work because priests were persecuted and killed during the war that ended on April 1, 1939.

In January 1943, Isidoro contracted Hodgkin's disease and was in so much pain. He received the Last Sacraments from Father Escriva and was buried the day after his death at the Almudena Cemetery in Madrid.

The information process for the canonization of the Servant of God began on Oct. 11, 1948, with Bishop of Madrid Leopoldo Eijo y Garay presiding. The diocesan investigation ended in the Basilica of St. Michael in Madrid on June 17, 1994.

For prayer cards, write the Office of the Vice Postulator of Opus Dei, 20 Sampaguita St., New Manila, QC. For testimonies of miracles, please write to the same address.

Prayer for beatification

"Almighty God, you filled your servant Isidoro with an abundant wealth of grace as he carried out his professional duties in the midst of the world: Grant that I may also learn to sanctify my ordinary work and bring the light of Christ to my friends and colleagues. Deign to glorify your Servant and through his intercession grant me the favor I request... (here make your petition). Amen."

SERVANT of God Isidoro Zorzano

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

One can also pray to Isidoro Zorzano for the healing of the sick. Someone even prayed for the repair of a broken refrigerator, not having the money for repair. But most of all, pray to him for the conversion of a friend or someone you know.

Novena for peace

Since yesterday, San Agustin Church has been holding a novena to the Our Lady of All Nations for world peace. Rosary begins at 11:30 a.m. and Novena Mass is held at 12 nn.

Saying Masses are: Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales (May 1); Bishop Ramon Arguelles (May 2); Bishop Socrates Villegas (May 3); Bishop Honesto Ongtioco (May 4); Bishop Francisco San Diego (May 5); Bishop Chito Taglè (May 6); Bishop Jesse Mercado (May 7); Bishop Deogracias Yñiguez (May 8); and Archbishop Rosales (May 9). The prayer to Our Lady of All Nations will also be said.

ST. James Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela

Boac patroness

Metro Manilans can now attend the novena to the Our Lady of Biglang Awa, patroness of Boac, Marinduque, at the Holy Family Parish on Madre Selva Street, Roxas District, QC, at 6:30 p.m. until May 9. Fiesta Mass is at 6:30 p.m., May 10. A 4-ft image of the Virgin was enthroned yesterday by Fr. Omer Prieto, parish priest. Members of the Our Lady of Biglang Awa Foundation attended.

Church needs help

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Bani, Pangasinan, part of the Diocese of Alaminos, is building a sociocivic center. Fr. Rendrix Rabago is asking for help. Call him at (075) 553-4014 or write care of the Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Poblacion, Bani, Pangasinan 2407.

Ermita fiesta

Tony Adriano, known for his altar designs, will be the *hermano mayor* during the fiesta of Nuestra Señora de Guia in Ermita on May 19. Novena Masses will begin at 6 p.m., May 10 and end May 18. Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan will say the fiesta Mass at 5 p.m., May 19.

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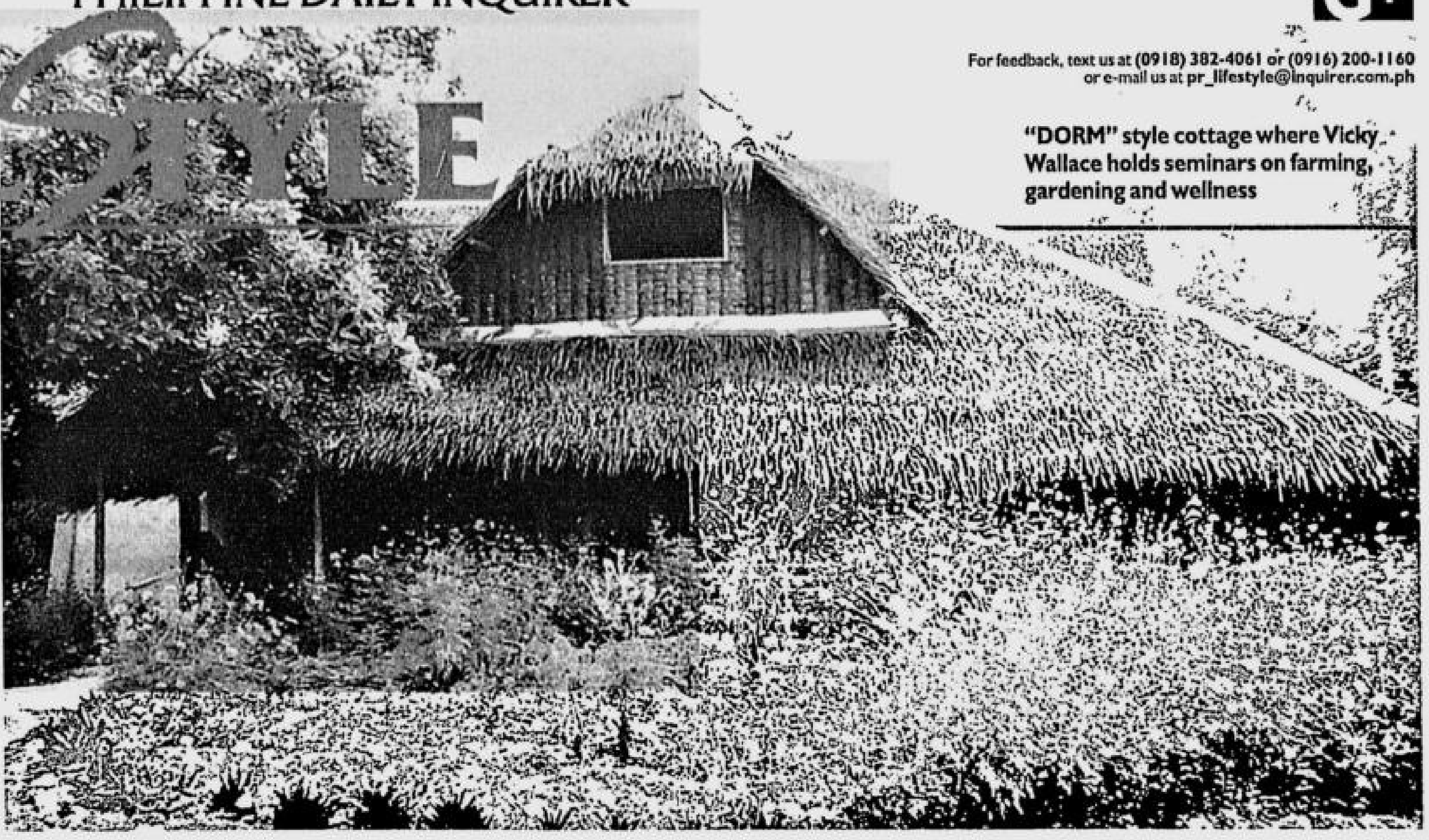

"DORM" style cottage where Vicky Wallace holds seminars on farming, gardening and wellness

Bee it ever so humble

Text and photos by Beia Formoso

IF you were to ask Victoria Wallace a year ago if she ever thought of entering the hotel, farming and restaurant business, she would have answered with a polite no. But in that short span of time, she and her little farm have come a long way to what it is today: A quaint resthouse-for-rent and buffet restaurant nestled in fields of organic vegetables, fruits, flowers and beehives, called Bohol Bee Farm.

Wallace, who asks you to call her Vicky as soon as you set foot in the place, says she herself has come a long way, too, not only as a businesswoman but as a person. Clad in a simple top, jeans and a bandana, she single-handedly runs the place with zest and a constant smile on her face.

"This is my dream here," she says. "I'm enjoying what I'm doing. It's fun, gardening and cooking. I have so much energy."

Indeed, energy is a must for all the work that must be done—cooking, cleaning, planting, harvesting, even making handicraft like hammocks and bags, not to mention raising two teenagers.

But Wallace doesn't show the stress and tension brought on by such tasks; instead you see peace and happiness in having a flourishing farm, a beautiful home, a booming restaurant, and contented workers and visitors.

Coming home

Once you enter the Bohol Bee Farm in the town of Dauis on Panglao Island, it's easy to feel at home because the place is just that—a home for the Wallace family when they wish to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Even some stray dogs have found a home in the farm. Wallace fondly calls them her "found" dogs.

Situated on a cliff along the south edge of the island, the resthouse was built nine years ago. Wallace consulted an architect for the overall foundation, but designed the house herself, relying on her intuition or following "whatever makes you feel good."

Mismatched wooden and bamboo furniture pieces, floral prints and colorful artwork mark a true islander's home, with charming touches of framed baby clothes of her kids on the walls and family photos. Interesting pieces abound, such as an antique rope maker, seashell ashtrays and a huge rock in the middle of the living room that Wallace wouldn't let the builders remove because it was oddly shaped liked the island of Bohol.

She used to invite only friends and family to vacation with them at the resthouse until Sonia Roco (wife of former senator Raul Roco and a Boholana herself) recommended the place to friends and told Wallace to charge them for their stay.

Going into business

Now Wallace rents out the house for P4,000 a night, inclusive of breakfast for four. The house can accommodate 8-10 people. It has a fully equipped kitchen, furnished living room, cable television, DVD player, stereo, air-conditioned bedrooms and a patio with a spectacular view of the sea.

Behind the house is a flight of stairs leading straight to a secluded shallow swimming area so rich in marine life you can spot a lion fish a

BEE/ G2

BOHOL Bee Farm owner Vicky Wallace

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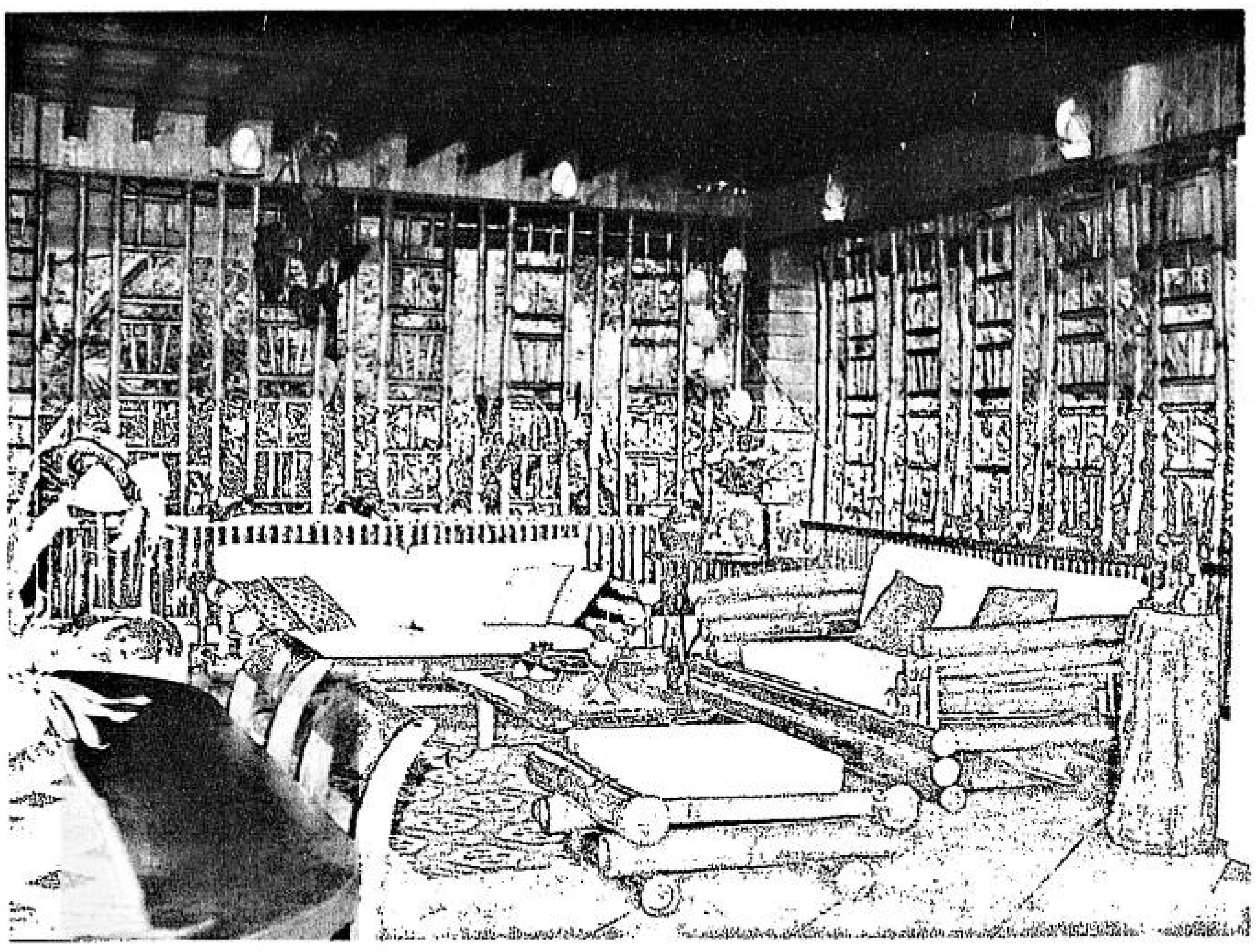
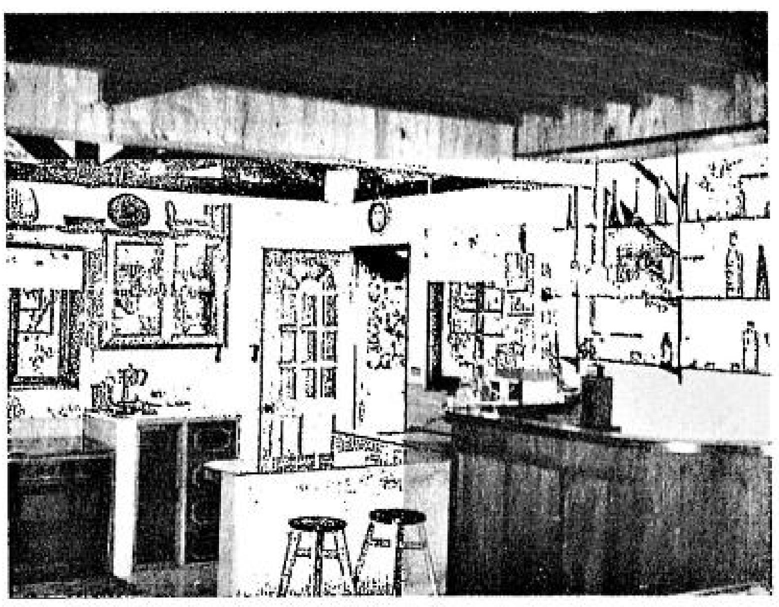
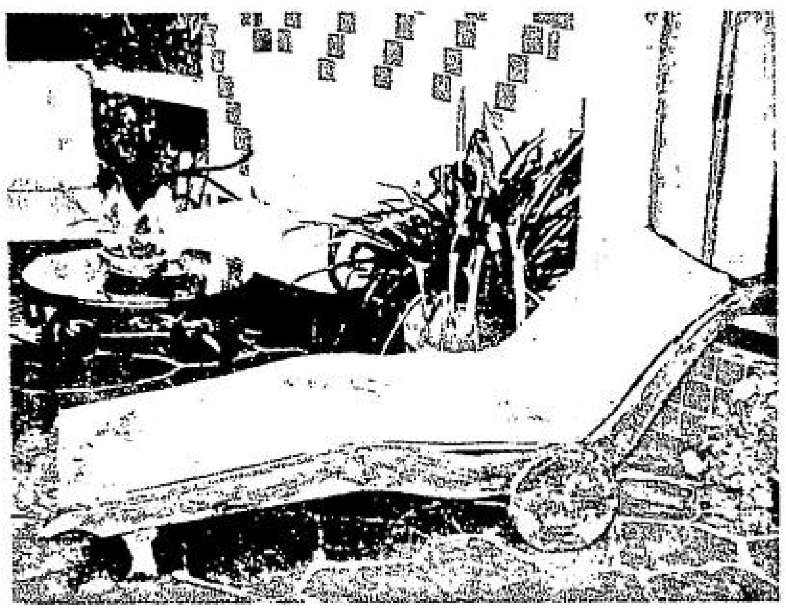
What was going to be a home for the Wallace family away from the city's hustle and bustle has become a growing business concern


COZY sala of Vicky Wallace's rest house


THE FULLY equipped kitchen and mini bar

BOHOL
BEE FARM
WELCOME to the famous bee farm of Bohol.

Bee it ever so humble


WOODEN chaise for lazing about on the veranda

From page G1

few feet into the water. But wearing slippers or watershoes is a good idea as there are many sea urchins lurking about.

Beside the resthouse is a dormitory-style bamboo house that can be rented for seminars and retreats. It is also fully furnished and can hold large groups. The house should be more than adequate for those who just need a place to sleep and leave their stuff while exploring the island.

The property consists of 4.8 hectares, but only one is used for farming. Rows of corn, mango trees with newspaper-covered fruits (to protect them from insects), and boxes of busy bees making honey are just some of the sights of nature at work to behold while driving along the winding road to the house and restaurant.

"There's nothing fancy about my garden," says Wallace. Yet the dedication, time and care put into it are evident in the products—romaine lettuce, radish, spinach, squash, turnips, *ube*, corn, cucumber, mango, papaya and various flowers, herbs and spices.

Caring for people

Many hands have helped put together the farm, and Wallace takes care of her farmers as well as she does her produce. People who have been with her for five years get a house and lot, and seedlings so they can have their own garden, a consistent source of food. "This is how we fight poverty," she says.

She also sends the workers' children to school. At present, she is supporting eight college students. In return, the scholars usually spend weekends helping in the farm.

The farm supplies resorts, convents and friends who live around the area. The restaurant is located between the farm and the house.

While Wallace would be the last person to admit to having a knack for business, the idea for opening a restaurant came because of her incessant drive to "go one level higher, always aim for excellence."

A person like her could never have a boring restaurant. The same creativity and eccentricity go into her cooking as in styling the place: Bumblebee lanterns on trees, hammocks hung all around, different colored chairs and table settings.

Flowers in your food

The fresh Bountiful Garden Salad composed of romaine lettuce, radish, cucumber, bean sprouts, spring squash and an assortment of garden blooms like bougainvillea, *gumamela*, calendula drenched in honey mustard with virgin coconut oil dressing is a mix so colorful and pretty that you'll spend as much time admiring it as you would eating it. The flowers aren't merely for decoration, they have the highest form of Vitamin C, an interesting fact Wallace learned at a flower show in Malaysia. "If flowers are edible to pollinators (bees), it's edible to us," she says.

FARM products will make great "pasalubong."

BOUNTIFUL garden salad of fresh organic veggies and flowers

The in-house buffet for dinner (for lunch, calls must be made in advance and there should be a minimum of 15 people) features honey-based cooking and the freshest homegrown ingredients. You can get away with eating all you can because the delicious food is actually healthy—Spicy Shrimp Soup, Seafood Lasagna, Baked Honey-Glazed Chicken, Sizzling Squid, Baked Fish with homemade Sweet and Sour Sauce, Herb Rice, homemade Herb Bread, and dessert of Baked *Kamote* topped with cream and brown sugar, and fresh fruits. Wash down your meal with cool Basil Iced Tea and end with the traditional homemade *kape* made from roasted corn and sweetened *an-an*, indigenous berries. The taste is identical to that of regular coffee from beans but since it is made from a vegetable, it is caffeine-free and therefore healthy.

After the sumptuous dinner, you'll be anticipating breakfast in the morning. During our stay, Wallace whipped up some mango pancakes with honey syrup, an omelette of tomatoes, onions and cheese, fresh papaya juice, and hot *tsokolaté* made from her special honeyed *tableya* (organically grown cacao) that had the perfect *timpla* and guaranteed no sediments. Truly a delightful way to start the day!

A must-try is her squash muffins that are so addicting, you'll buy a box to take home. Asked how she came up with the idea of using squash, Wallace replies, "I want to develop foods that people don't usually look for or use, like squash, improve it and enhance it." She also bakes *ube* and corn muffins.

Other take-home treats are pure honey, honey spread, honey and garlic spread (the combination seems odd but you'll trust her taste after trying the buffet). She also sells bee pollen, said to be full of vitamins and can be eaten raw or mixed into cereal.

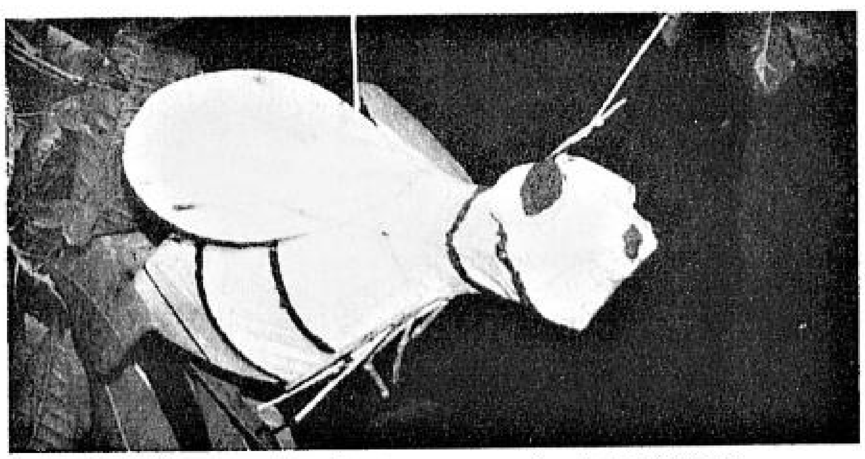
The honeyed *tableya* is also for sale, as well as the infamous basil tea which comes in woven bags for dunking. The comfy hammocks and bags that are made right there in the farm are also available in different styles and colors.

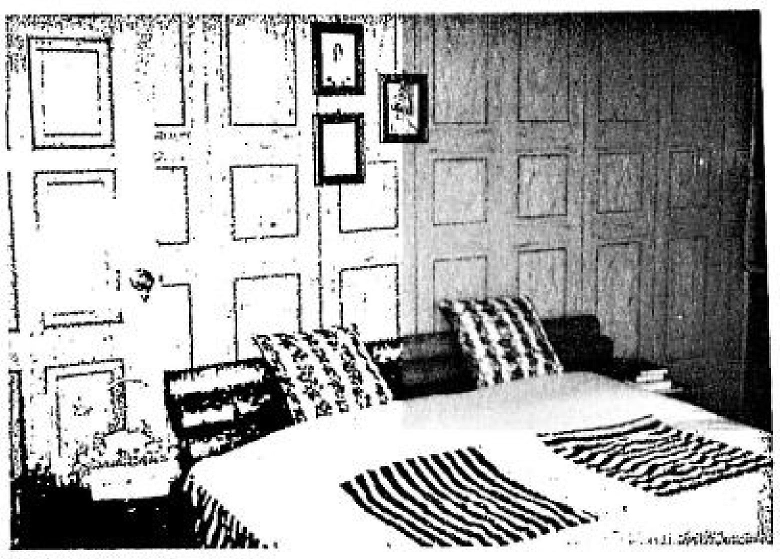
So what could be the next "level" after a restaurant, hotel and farm? Wallace's next "project" is to open a store in a local mall that will rise soon. Named "The Buzz," the store will carry products from the farm—from fresh produce to squash muffins.

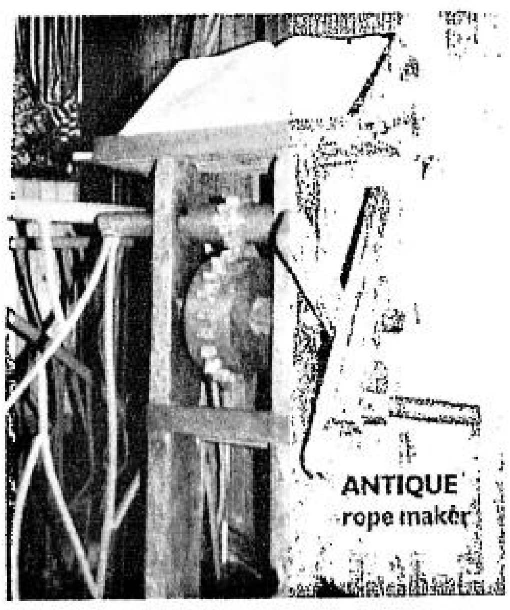
Like the Chocolate Hills and tarsiers, the Bohol Bee Farm is another experience unique to the island of Bohol, a place you can't wait to go back to again and again.

Contact Vicky Wallace at 09173356400 or vickywallace@hotmail.com

For information on Bohol, call the Bohol Tourism Office at (038)411-3666, (038)501-9186 or e-mail boholtourism@yahoo.com


BUMBLEBEE lanterns adorn the trees surrounding the restaurant.


THE MASTER bedroom

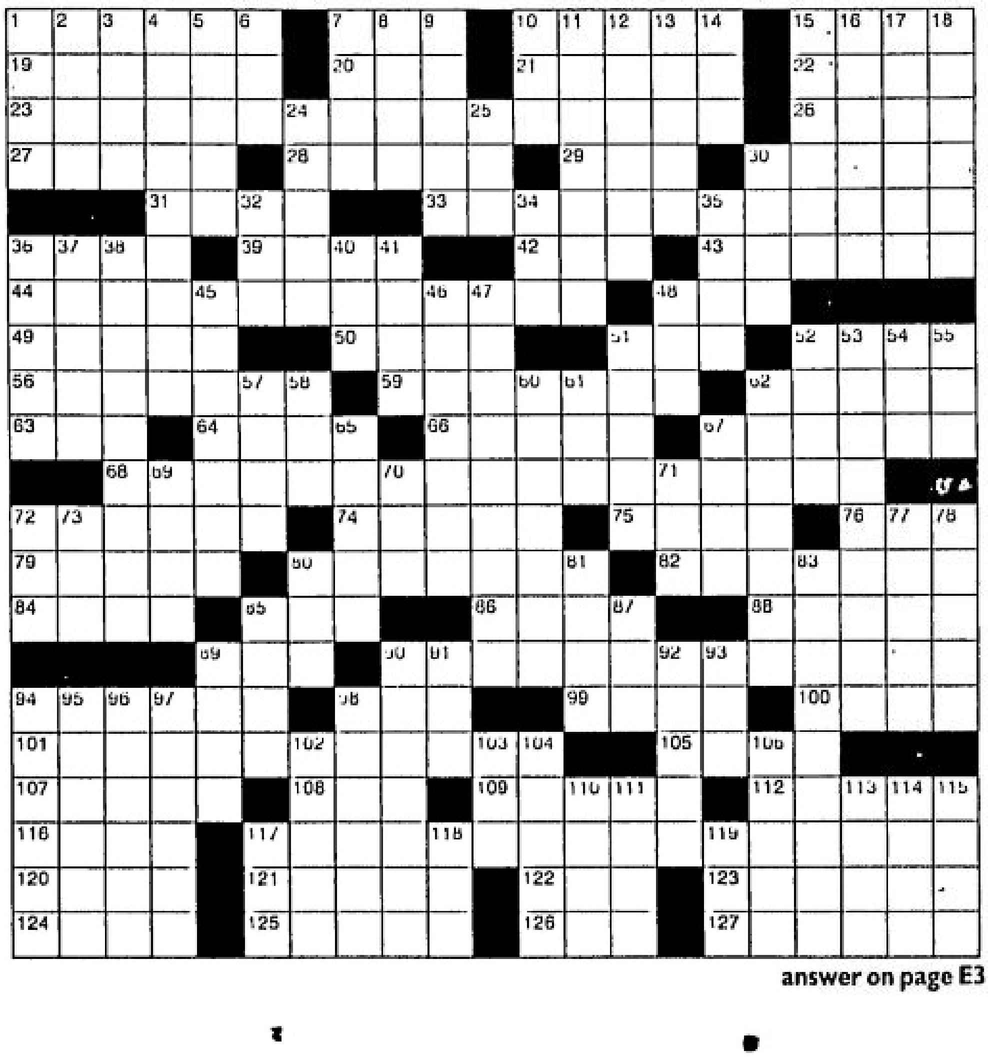

ANTIQUE rope maker

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone THE SHRUB!

ACROSS
1 Waikiki welcomes
7 "Mommy" has three
10 Part of MGM
15 Post-workout woe
19 Gloomy
20 Farrow of films
21 Kitchen gizmo
22 Weaver's frame
23 Psychiatrist doing figure eights?
26 Onion-to-be, e.g.
27 "The Prince of Tides" star
28 Dickens' Heep
29 Reassuring touch
30 Spine-tingling
31 Take a blue pencil to
33 Counseled by a huckster's helper?
36 Taverns
39 E. — (bacteria)
42 Fraternity letters
43 See 50 Across
44 Mayberry lush destroying documents?
48 Dean's partner in pop
49 Fight off
50 With 43 Across, brand of foot care products
51 Big name in Internet service
52 Rose Bowl org.
56 Mark of a mistake
59 Another
62 Quarter-acres
63 Palme — (Cannes Film Festival award)
64 — avis
66 Negative particle
67 Unites
68 Jungle dweller who's skilled at pottery and sculpture?
72 Evening party
74 Goes sightseeing
75 Stoic philosopher
76 Mrs. McKinley
79 Loathsome
80 "Peekaboo!" follower
82 Self-righteous sort
84 Scrapes (out)
85 Endeavor
86 Glowing personality?
88 Weapon aimed at Goliath
89 Hail a dance?
90 Ledges upon which toys are stored at the North Pole?
94 Grow, as interest
98 CDs' forerunners
99 Luke Skywalker's sister
100 Crane creation
101 Yell from one's treetop perch?
105 Faithful
107 Countless mass
108 Gone by
109 Prefix with visual
112 Old autocrats
116 Quote
117 Inability to figure out how to use a camera?
120 Golf rarities
121 Eighth of a cup
122 Trans-gression
123 Fictional reporter Starr
124 Barber's call
125 City on the Missouri
126 Actress Carrere
127 Foot part

DOWN
1 Infamous Idi
2 Nuts
3 Hurler Hershiser
4 Perle Mesta and others
5 Invited
6 Mariner's milieu
7 Kuwaiti royal
8 Short skirt
9 Long stories
10 Speed stat
11 Noise blocker-outer
12 CourtTV events
13 Oscar de la —
14 Mork's home planet
15 Even if
16 Dinner division
17 — -than-thou
18 Surrounds snugly
24 Teach privately
25 "Quiet!"
30 Governor Bayh
32 I, in Innsbruck
34 Motel
35 Hand out hands
36 Mulled (over)
37 In — (unborn)
38 Divided into two sections
40 Zodiac sign
41 "— Anything" ("Oliver!" tune)
45 Talked like a tippler
46 Phil of TV talk
47 She played Granny on "The Beverly Hillbillies"
48 Quarterback Montana
51 Desi who loved Lucy
52 Screenwriter Ephron
53 Of conscious intellectual activity
54 Suffix with lemon
55 Burro
57 Tear down
58 Epoch
60 Let a good opportunity go by
61 Circusgoer's cry
62 Rueful feeling
65 Fidgety
67 Cafe handout
69 Bellicose deity
70 It can be stubbed
71 Vim
72 The lady
73 Tree of Iowa
77 "Great" dogs
78 Uneasy feeling
80 Lyricist Gershwin
81 Russian river
83 Maladies
85 Detective Kojak
87 Suffix of enzymes
89 Like a button?
90 Irregular stain
91 "Just — suspected!"
92 Use as a chair
93 Laughter syllable
94 Refuse receptacle
95 Selection
96 Cerebral —
97 Least polite
98 — Hills, CA
102 Bible book after Micah
103 West of "I'm No Angel"
104 Explode
106 About-face
110 Early 7th-century date
111 Inner Hebrides island
113 Isn't wrong?
114 Took the bus
115 Go bonkers
117 — Canals
118 Caffeine source
119 G-man's org.



answer on page E3

ETHNIC band Kadangyan

GUESTS enjoying the show

Adventure in Boracay and beyond

THE MARLBORO Adventure Team (MAT) was launched in Boracay last April 10, with a grand party that lasted until the wee hours of the morning.

More than a thousand beach lovers, sports enthusiasts and party creatures trooped to the adventure grounds that Marlboro has erected in an area of the beachfront.

Hosts Marc Nelson of ABS-CBN's "Sports Unlimited" and adventure buff Olivia Richard revved up the crowd with lots of dancing, singing and games.

Jazz band Brass Munkeys and ethnic band Kadangyan dished out lively grooves, while chill-out music was provided by renowned international DJ Juan Nunez of Wax Records, who was performing in the Philippines for the first time, and DJ Cyril of Groove Nation.

GPS watches, outdoor belt pouches and carabiner flashlights were given to the winners of the wall climbing and table games, while numerous Marlboro special-edition Zippo lighters were raffled off.

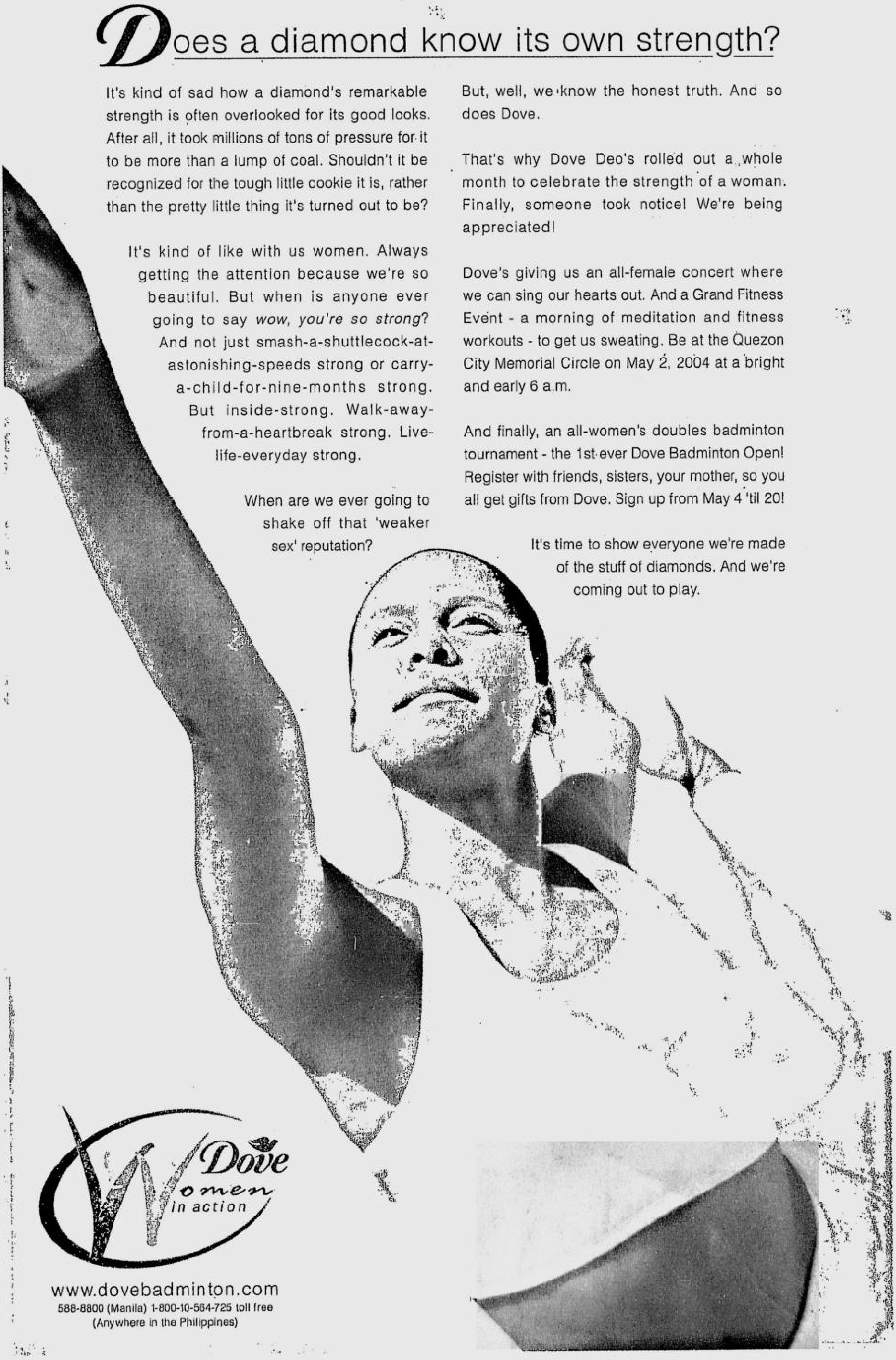
Marlboro brand manager Jasper Evangelista said MAT 2004 is giving away more fabulous prizes, including a chance to go to the United States this September for an adventure of a lifetime in picturesque Moab, Utah.

"Freedom is calling," the program's theme, is a concept that captures the overriding spirit behind MAT. It is all about answering the call and taking up the challenge of the great outdoors, as well as exploring new frontiers and discovering strength, motivation, and determination in driving 4x4 jeeps and all-terrain-vehicles, motor biking, rafting, climbing, trekking and bonding with people who share the same passion.

PARTY people

MARLBORO brand manager Jasper Evangelista explaining the mechanics of the MAT 2004 promo, with hosts Olivia Richard and Marc Nelson

WALL-CLIMBING was one of the games during the MAT launch.



Does a diamond know its own strength?

It's kind of sad how a diamond's remarkable strength is often overlooked for its good looks. After all, it took millions of tons of pressure for it to be more than a lump of coal. Shouldn't it be recognized for the tough little cookie it is, rather than the pretty little thing it's turned out to be?

It's kind of like with us women. Always getting the attention because we're so beautiful. But when is anyone ever going to say *wow, you're so strong*? And not just smash-a-shuttlecock-at-astonishing-speeds strong or carry-a-child-for-nine-months strong. But inside-strong. Walk-away-from-a-heartbreak strong. Live-life-everyday strong.

When are we ever going to shake off that 'weaker sex' reputation?

But, well, we know the honest truth. And so does Dove.

That's why Dove Deo's rolled out a whole month to celebrate the strength of a woman. Finally, someone took notice! We're being appreciated!

Dove's giving us an all-female concert where we can sing our hearts out. And a Grand Fitness Event - a morning of meditation and fitness workouts - to get us sweating. Be at the Quezon City Memorial Circle on May 2, 2004 at a bright and early 6 a.m.

And finally, an all-women's doubles badminton tournament - the 1st ever Dove Badminton Open! Register with friends, sisters, your mother, so you all get gifts from Dove. Sign up from May 4 'til 20!

It's time to show everyone we're made of the stuff of diamonds. And we're coming out to play.

Dove
Women in action

www.dovebadminton.com
588-8800 (Manila) 1-800-10-564-725 toll free
(Anywhere in the Philippines)

G!
what a summer!

Summer Beach Hopping with INTENSITY G

Pier One is the docking place for party lovers in Boracay.

The winners of the Gentxt's Paraw Regatta with July.

Globe's funky captain

La Carlota Drumbeaters at Boracay's Summer Place.

In a country made up of 7,107 islands, good beaches are not hard to come by. White beaches with sand as fine as baby powder are aplenty, as well as pristine seas teeming with stunning corals and exotic marine life. This summer, Intensity G, Globe's roving regional roadshow, explored three of the country's top summer destinations and discovered why the Philippines is a paradise for beach heads and sun worshipers.

Intensity G's sizzling summer celebrations kicked off at lush Samal Island down South in Davao. This tropical island resort, tucked away in the middle of busy, bustling Davao City offers visitors a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of city living. There's a strip of white sandy beach, lined with cottages and hammocks dotted between the palms. Sparkling blue water beckons visitors to shake off the summer heat with a refreshing cool dip. While a nearby delightful seaside restaurant is sure to tickle the taste buds with delicious and sumptuous culinary delights of only the freshest and finest seafood bounty which Mindanao is famous for. At night, the whole island comes alive with the sound of lifting Caribbean music. A trip to Samal Island is a sensuous treat for the tired mind, body and soul.

It was then off to wondrous Boracay in Aklan. This blissful butterfly shaped island is the diamond amongst the Philippines' wealth of beaches.

The major draw of the island is White Beach, a beautiful 4-km stretch of gently sloping white sand. The powdery sand and serene, clear blue waters are hard to match anywhere else in the country. The beachfront is semi-screened by coconut trees and lined with casual beach bars and restaurants. White Beach comprises virtually all of the island's action and nightlife but still retains its relaxed beach bum appeal.

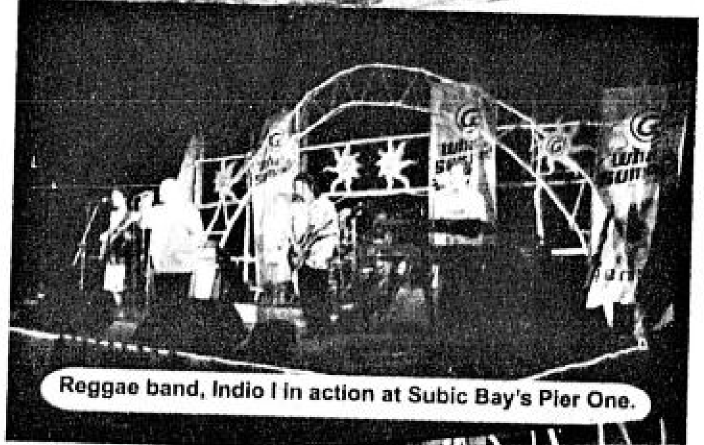
Boracay's nightlife thrives with beach bars and discos, lasting into the wee hours. Gentxt heightened the vibrant nightlife in Boracay by mounting sizzling parties at Pier One, Summer Place and Cocomangas Shooter Bar. Popular Globe endorser July, DJ Manolet Dario, and internationally renowned DJ Miguel Migs gave Gentxters the ultimate Boracay Party experience which lasted until dawn.

Finally, Intensity G capped of its summer party with a concert at Subic Bay's popular Pier One. Loads of cool Gentxt premium merchandise were given away to Gentxters grooving the night to the toe-tapping reggae rhythms of Indio I.

Staying connected while island hopping is no problem for Globe subscribers, as Davao, Aklan, and Zambales are covered by Globe's superb network strength. Calling, texting or sending MMS to friends and loved ones about your fantastic summer escapade is hassle free round the clock. Should you run out of load or want to upgrade your SIM, Intensity G's sales blitzes are the one-stop place for all of your cellphone needs.

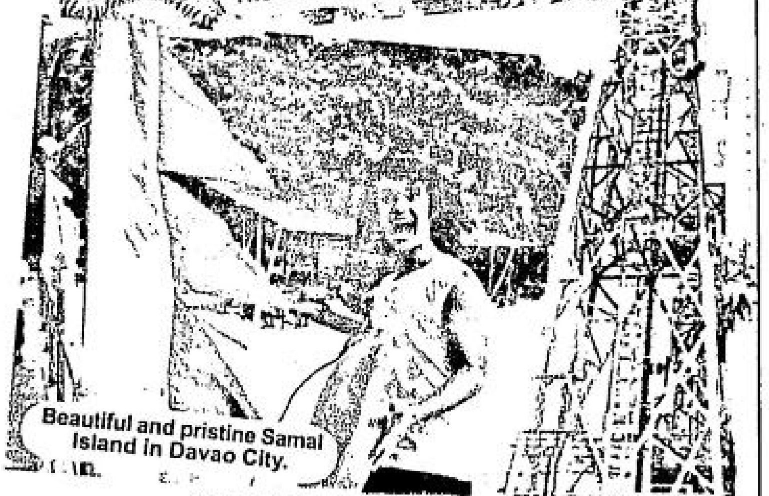
The Philippines is the world's best kept island resort. Explore its unique beauty this summer and make it a really memorable and fantastic season.

Feeding the whales at Subic Bay's Ocean Adventure.



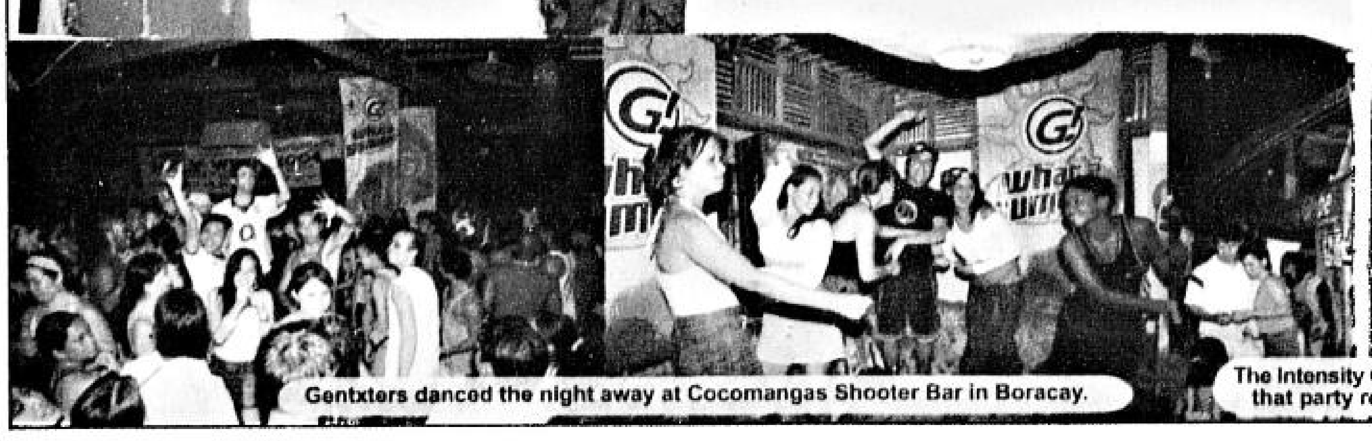
Reggae band, Indio I in action at Subic Bay's Pier One.

The exotic Durian fruit of Davao City.

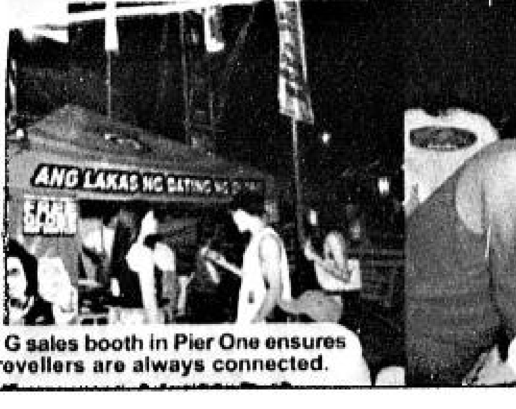


Beautiful and pristine Samal Island in Davao City.

INTENSITY G
ANG LAKAS NG DATING NG GLOBE



Gentxters danced the night away at Cocomangas Shooter Bar in Boracay.


ANG LAKAS NG DATING NG GLOBE

The Intensity G sales booth in Pier One ensures that party revellers are always connected.

The SIM swap offering of Intensity G heats up Boracay's Summer Place.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LifeStyle

SEA Princess bakes in brown /I1

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160 or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Red, white, blue Flores de Mayo

THE ANNUAL Flores de Mayo organized by the Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus marks its silver anniversary today by showcasing the colors of the Philippine flag—red, white and blue.

Top models, debutantes and celebrities will converge at the Rajah Sulayman Plaza on Roxas Boulevard where they will change into their ternos designed by members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP) and guest couturiers.

The *sagalas* will then walk the length of the Manila Baywalk to the *Baluarte de* San Diego in Intramuros. Judges will choose La Flor de Manila, Rosa Mystica and Reina de las Flores.

Participating designers include Johnny Abad, John Abul, Michaelangelo Afable, Blas Aligno, Francis Calaquian, Rheez Chua, Ivan dela Cruz, Babang del Mundo, Edna Encarnacion, Rikko Escaro, Jon Espeleta, Gener Gozum, Roland Lirio, Glenn Lopez, Dennis Martin, Jontie Martinez, Ole Morabe, Vivo Nazareth, Richard Papa, Lito Perez, Bumbee Ramos, Adrian Rios, Rholand Roxas and, from Lucena, Alfie Lim and Buddy Reyes.

Edgar Allan's gown will be worn by Gigi Atienza, who will be escorted by Marvin Agustin; Greg Centeno, by Therese Panlilio with Wilnor Padigos as escort; Jim de Jesus, by Maria Cecilia de Castro with Oliver Andaya Salas as escort; Jing Chua, by Eileen Cavas; Tony Galang, by April Tanhueco; and Eddie Baddeo, by Nikki Meneses.

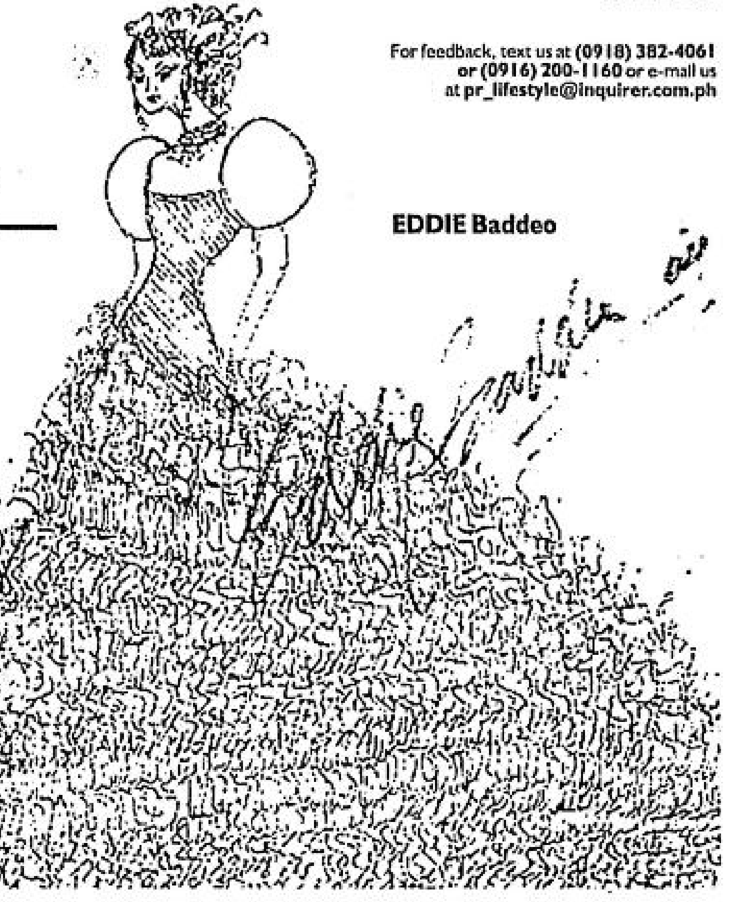
Supporting the event are the City of Manila, Department of Tourism and Unilever Philippines.

Hermanos and *hermanas* are Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan and wife Susan, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and wife Beng; Unilever Philippines chair and CEO Howard Belton and wife Christina, with *Congregacion* founding chair Ben Farrales and honorary consul to Guatemala Mellie Ablaza.

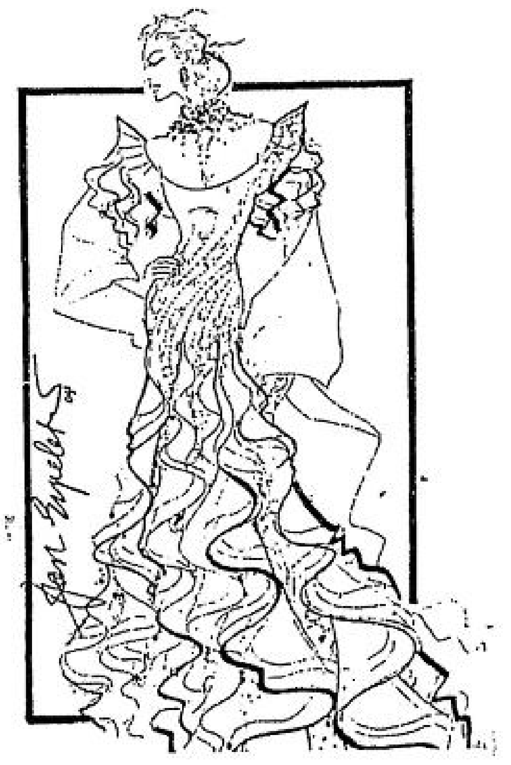
On the panel of judges will be Louie Locsin, wife of Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin; Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab; Philippine Tourism Authority general manager Robert Dean Barbers; Chito Macapagal, general manager, corporate development, Unilever Philippines; philanthropist Danny Dolor; Allan Tengco, Baliuag Tours and Transit executive; Pia Sacro, director of Manila tourism and cultural affairs office and chief of staff of the Manila mayor; and Edu Jarque, travel columnist.

Expected to attend are ladies of the diplomatic corps like Ulrike Caetano da Silva of Portugal, Carolyn Dimond of the United Kingdom, Mariana Hubbard of Mexico, Silva Schuff of Argentina and Gul Tanghe of Belgium.

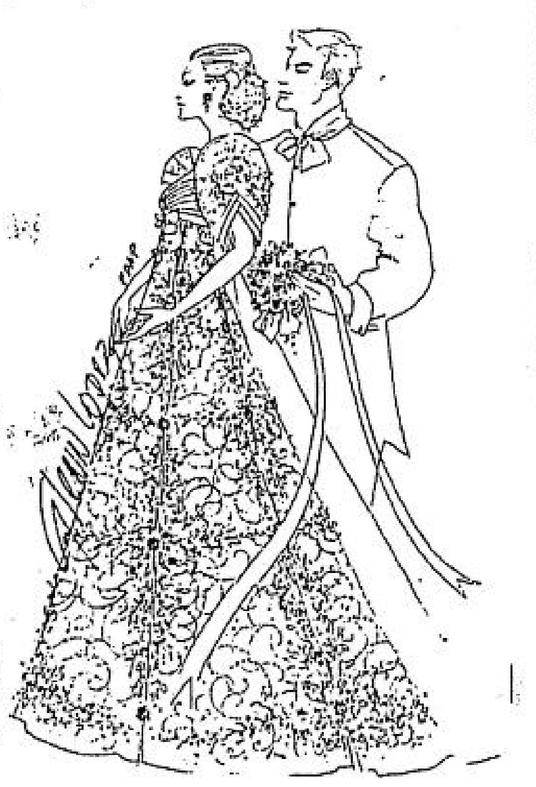
The judging and coronation will be held at an invitation-only reception at the Baluarte de San Diego. Guest performers are Dulce, Jinky Llamanzares, George Tagle and Richard Villanueva. Eddie Mercado will be master of ceremonies. Ogee Atos will direct the event while Gerry Matias is musical director. DOT's Lina Jose will be the coordinator.



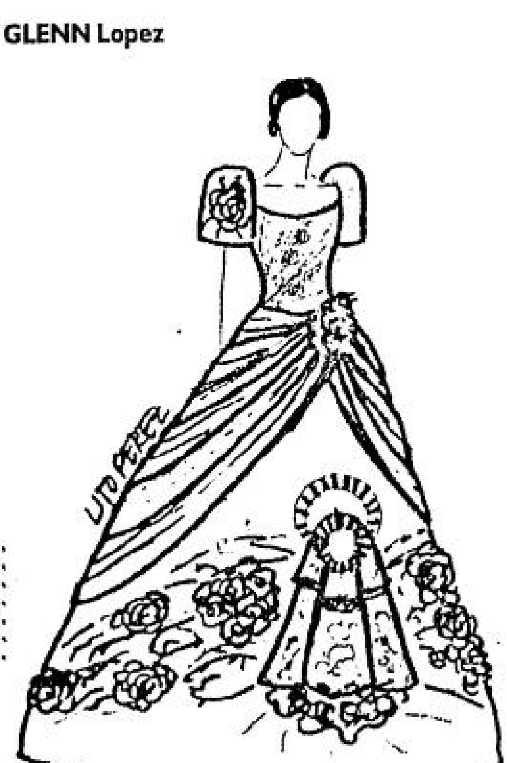
EDDIE Baddeo



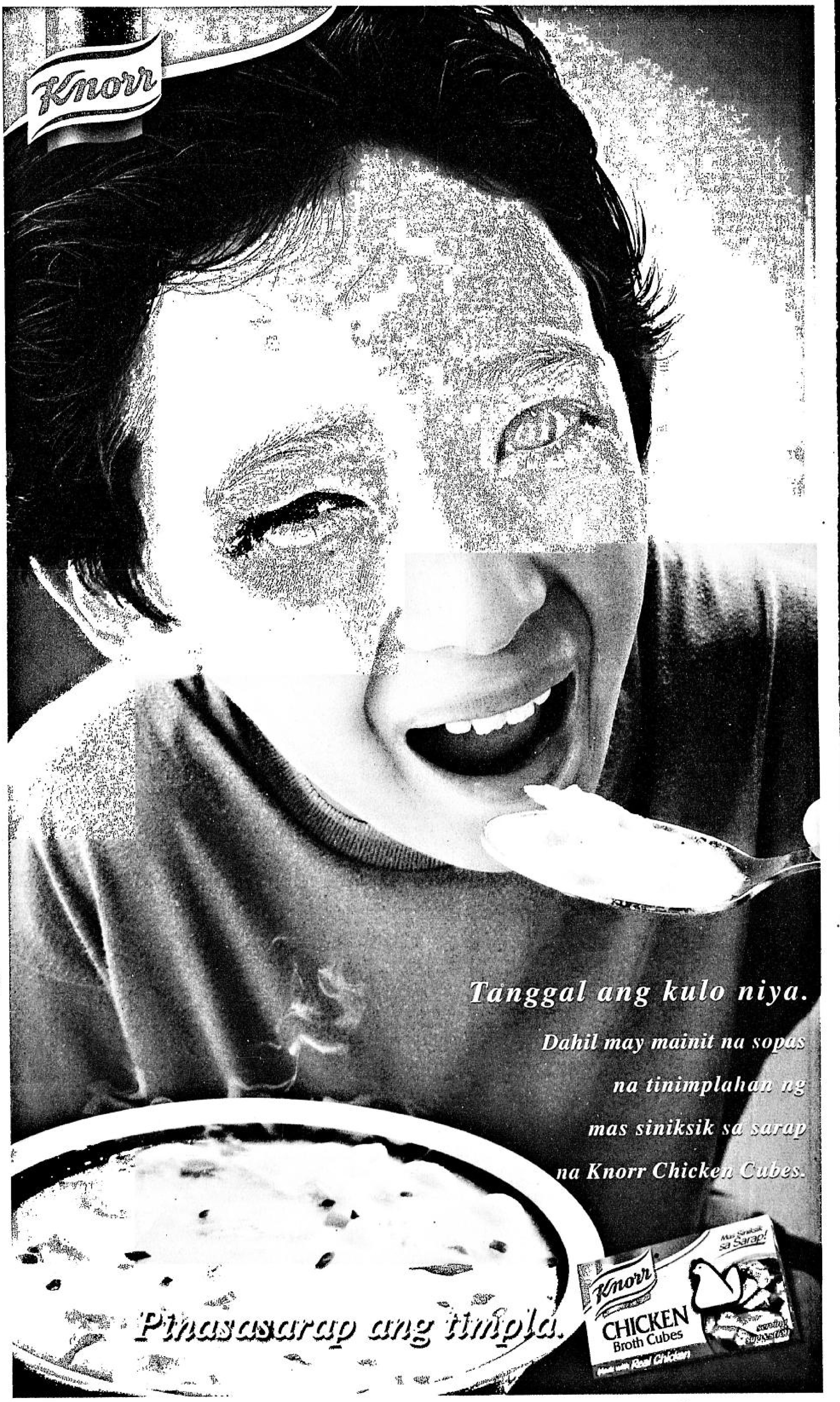
JON Espeleta



GLENN Lopez

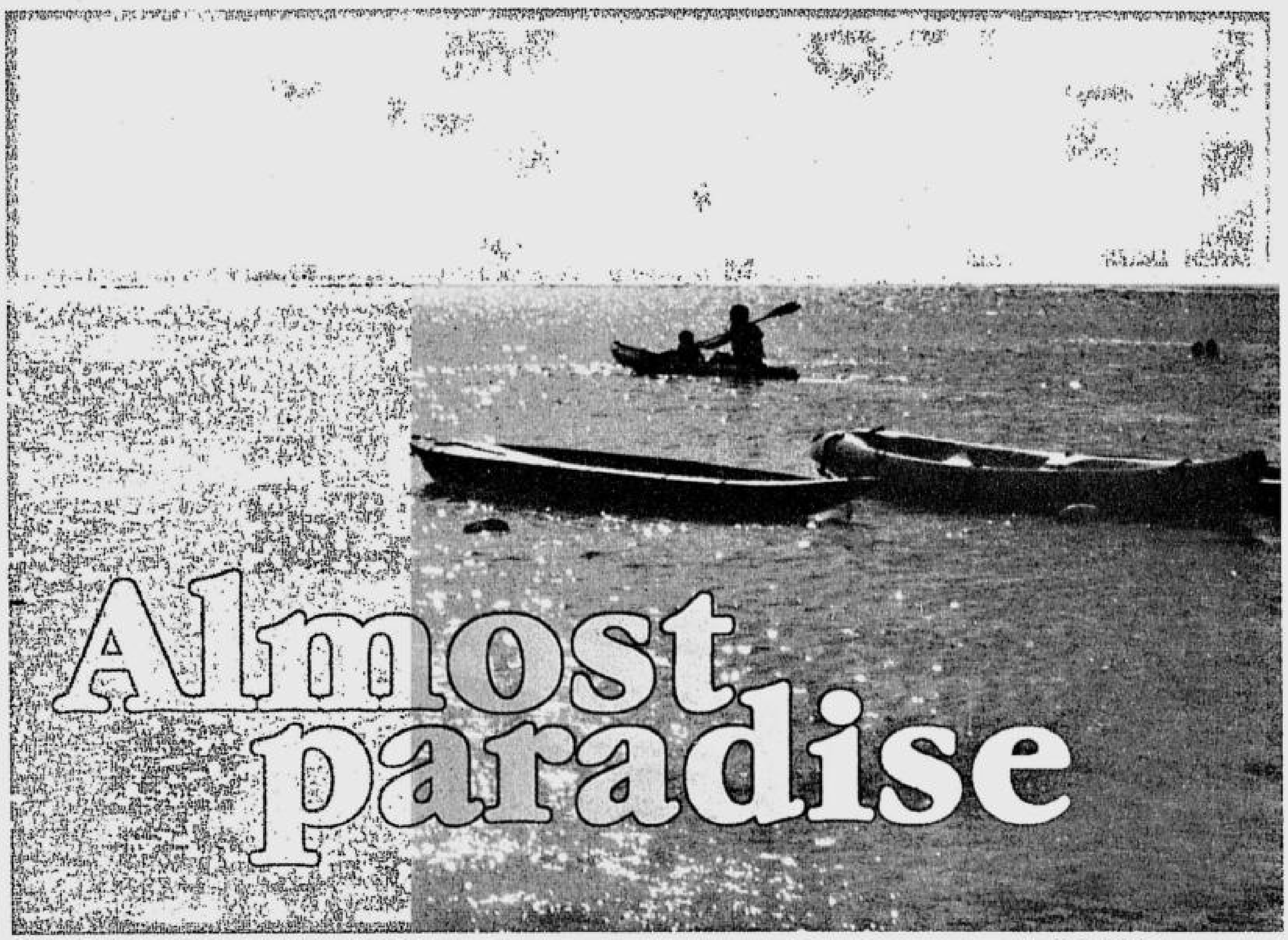


LITO Perez



TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano



Almost paradise

KAYAKING, among many resort pleasures

Text and photos
by Bibsy M. Carballo
Contributor

HAVING visited Saipan more than 10 years ago when its major event was the acquisition of its first traffic light, we thought things would be different this time around.

Things are indeed different—and the same.

Saipan now has more traffic lights, and more people. Its lifestyle is still laid-back and simple, the major industry still tourism, the regional airline still Continental, and the biggest foreign minority still Filipino (so much so that, it's said, the country will stop running if the Filipinos go on vacation all at the same time).

It has no public transport system apart from taxis (flagdown at $2.50), and most residents have cars. Tourists can avail themselves of hotel transport as well as the free shuttle service every half-hour from practically all the resorts to the Duty Free mall in the center of town.

Sprawling over 190 square kilometers of flat and hilly terrain, Saipan looks much like, and is even run like, our own Subic, only bigger. It is a testimony to their shared American past, except that in Saipan, where the currency is the US dollar, the American presence very much endures.

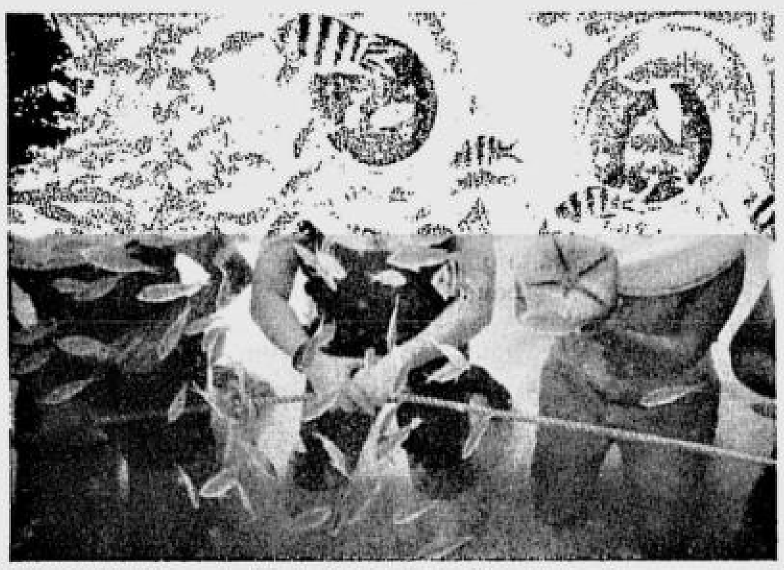
As part of Micronesia consisting of four large island groups (the Caroline Islands, Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Marianas of Guam, Saipan and two other small islands, Tinian and Rota, with a combined population of 8,000), Saipan, with more than 63,000 residents, draws 80,000 visitors a year. Of these, the Japanese make up 70 percent, and the rest are Koreans, Taiwanese, more and more mainland Chinese who fly in on chartered flights, and a growing Russian market.

The major language is English; the native Chamorros and Carolinians speak ancient Chamorro with Spanish and Japanese influences that sound to us much like our Chavacano; and the signs are in English and Japanese.

But text-addicted Filipinos be warned: Saipan has no access to either Globe or Smart, and one's cell phone roaming device will not work.

The wide clean avenues (paved with crushed shells), tree-lined and lighted boulevards with the famous 2.7-mile-long Saipan Beach Pathway, low crime rate (mostly drug-related), and a year-round tranquil temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit amount to some sort of a paradise for residents and visitors alike. The beaches (along which can be found most of the hotels—Grand, Hyatt, Dai-ichi, Nikko, Pacific Islands Club) cannot compare with our Boracay, Cebu, or Bohol, but the waters are clear and clean.

Saipan offers excellent dive spots, and the abundant marine life can be viewed through glass-bottom ferry boats that ply the Saipan-Managaha Island beach 15 minutes away, through a submarine ride, or through the Seawalker, from where tourists dive 12 meters down to swim with the fish. (It's nothing like the Grand Cayman's swimming-with-the-stingrays adventure, but good enough for starters.)



EYEBALLING marine life in the Seafarer dive

Perhaps because of the lack of major nighttime attractions, ethnic crafts and indigenous life, the local tourist industry tries a little bit harder to sell Saipan.

Leading the resort hotels is the American-owned and -run Pacific Island Club (PIC), now 15 years in Saipan. It offers a package that includes free sports activities within its 300 acres (so attractive a package that, we are told, the Grand Hotel is undergoing renovation to equal, if not beat, the offering).

We scaled a wall; took tennis, archery, swimming and pingpong lessons; went kayaking, windsurfing, sailing and roller-blading—all, including instructors' fees, for free, whereas all other resorts would charge around $25 per rental/activity.

The most popular sports activity at the PIC is the wave—a sort of preparation for surfing.

Another of the hotel's pluses is the ubiquitous presence of 30-40 young and attractive "Clubmates" of American, Japanese, Chamorro, Korean, Taiwanese, Filipino and Russian nationalities. They serve as lifeguards and instructors, and generally cater to the whims and caprices of the visitors.

THE WAVE, a preparation for surfing

Kanae Quinn, PIC director for sales and marketing, admits that the idea was borrowed from Club Med, but it looks like the PIC has improved on the concept.

This, plus the many Filipinos on the service staff, contributes to the excellent marks the resort has been getting from its visitors, Quinn says.

While Saipan is slowly beefing up its attractions to lure tourists, it has other sources of inbound traffic. A big chunk is made up of Filipino nurses who take their tests there for acceptance in the United States. And then there are Filipinos visiting relatives working there, or simply flying in for a holiday.

In either case, explains Marie Das, marketing manager of the Marianas Visitors Authority, the attraction is being able to visit a US territory without having to go through the rigors of applying for a US visa.

It is for this reason that Continental Airlines has opened direct flights between Manila and Saipan twice weekly, while maintaining its 14 flights weekly to Guam, with connections to Micronesia, Honolulu, the mainland US and Canada.

Flights via Guam require a US visa even for transit passengers, according to Continental's sales and marketing manager Ray Samonte and marketing officer Marissa Torres.

Direct flights to Saipan require only a VEP (Visitors Entry Permit), which can be secured after three days.

There are, however, other connections between Saipan and the Philippines that are worthy of note. When Ferdinand Magellan went on that historic discovery trip to the Philippines, he first landed in Guam, claiming the Marianas for Spain and calling it *Las Islas de la Velas Latinas* (The Islands of the Latin Sails).

The galleon trade between Manila and Acapulco in Mexico produced many shipwrecks. One of them, the Manila galleon Nuestra Señora de la Concepcion, struck a reef near Saipan and was salvaged only 46 years after the disaster.

In 1899, Spain sold the islands to Germany, under whose control they remained until World War I in 1914, when the Japanese took over.

During World War II, on June 15, 1944, one of the most hotly contested battles between Japanese and US forces took place. Thousands of American and Japanese soldiers lost their lives. On July 9, 1944, the Americans secured the islands for the United States.

To this day, wrecks of tanks and cannons dot the islands.

On June 10-16, Saipan marks the 60th anniversary of the battle with presentations of commemorative coins to visiting veterans, dedications of memorials, unveiling of a commemorative stamp, a golf tournament, concerts, a time-capsule dedication and the obligatory fireworks.

For inquiries, call Continental Airlines at 0632-8188701 or e-mail the Pacific Islands Club at sales@picsaipan.com or the Marianas Visitors Authority at mvb@saipan.com.

CANNON on the little island of Managaha

Here's how to enjoy your summer vacation

YOUR summer vacation can be a relaxing and hassle-free experience with the help of these travel tips from Asiana Airlines.

The multi-awarded Korean carrier flies from Manila and Clark in Pampanga to Seoul and on to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and New York; to Saipan; to London and Frankfurt; and to 14 cities in Japan and 14 cities in China, aside from its extensive domestic network.

If you're planning great shopping, sightseeing, or exploring the local culture, keep these tips in mind:

- Check for visa information and validity. Consult your travel agent on visa requirements and allow for ample time for preparation.
- Check your visa's validity before even booking plane tickets. For travelers to South Korea, passengers with a US visa and a confirmed booking to the United States are allowed a stopover of up to 15 days without a Korean visa.
- Pack only the travel essentials. Increased airport security inspections take a lot of time this season. The US Transportation Security Administration also advises against bringing wrapped gifts. Consider wrapping them at your destination instead.

Leave space in your luggage or pack a lightweight collapsible bag for great buys you might find. But keep in mind size and weight limits for checked-in (32 kg or 70 lb at most, with total dimensions not exceeding 158 cm or 62 in) and carry-on (10 kg at most and not exceeding 115 cm in size) luggage.

- Tuck a change of clothing in your carry-on. Dress comfortably for long-haul flights (you can change to something else upon arrival).
- Be aware of the recommended check-in times at the airport. For outbound passengers, it's at least three hours before departure, especially when traveling with children. Let your young children know that their toys and other things will also be subject to airport screening. (The Incheon International Airport, Asiana's main hub in Korea, is considered one of the world's top airports for its family-friendly facilities.)
- Keep your passport, IDs, prescription medication and money close to your person. Remember that next to illness, losses are one of the greatest setbacks to enjoying a vacation. Some countries recognize only government-issued IDs like passports. Bring your medical records and your doctor's contact info for emergencies.
- Leave your itinerary, plane schedule and travel contact information to trusted people. Not only will this be convenient for your pick-up upon arrival, it will also ensure that someone at home knows precisely where you are and how to reach you in case of emergency.
- Read up on your destination. Seasons are changing around the world so bring appropriate clothing. Learn some handy foreign phrases. Know what to expect from the locals. Check time differences and currency exchange.

For more information, call your travel agent or Asiana Airlines at 892-5698 or Reservations at 892-5688.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Annual frolic

PLANTATION Bay's annual summer promo, "Summer Frolix," with attractive rates for Waterview rooms, great food and resort facilities, is back on track until June 30.

You can start your day with group tai chi or yoga to cleanse the mind and body. Then indulge your thrill-seeking streak with the Aqua Challenge (for groups) and the Savannah Adventure (for the little ones).

Learn how to scuba dive in the safety of the resort's lagoons, splash-bomb to your heart's content, or kick up your feet with modern dance and jazz lessons. Or, for the ultimate in relaxation, just curl up with a good book by the beach or lounge around and worship the sun at any of the two freshwater pools.

Wall-climbing, archery, and carnivals are the other added attractions. Mogambo Springs, The Spa at Plantation Bay, has lined up new facial and beauty treatments alongside its famous spa specialties.

For food trippers, there are four signature restaurants and a number of kiosks offering comfort and picnic food, delectable Visayan specialties, romantic sunset cocktails, wines and cheeses, even *halo-halo*.

The promo is limited to Philippine residents and *balikbayan*, and is not available during hotel peak periods. For inquiries, call (032) 340-5900 (Cebu) domestic toll free 1-800-1-888-7788, or 844-5024 or 25 (Manila).

New nonstop flight

EMIRATES has announced that it will launch its first passenger service from North America to the Middle East on June 1.

The new daily non-stop A340-500 service from New York (JFK) to Dubai (UAE) was announced by Ghaith al Ghaith, Emirates executive vice president for commercial operations worldwide, during a media briefing in Dubai.

The service will introduce in-flight comforts in all cabin classes and provide improved connections for travelers from North America to the Gulf region, Africa, the Indian subcontinent and Asia Pacific.

Operating out of the ultramodern Terminal 4 at JFK, the daily EK202 outbound flight will depart at 11:30 p.m. and arrive in Dubai at 10:30 p.m. the next day. The return flight EK 201 will depart Dubai at 8 a.m. and land at JFK at 2 p.m. the same day.

The airline's New York-Dubai route marks the beginning of its passenger service in the Americas. Expansion plans include other gateways in the United States, Canada and South America.

The A340-500 amenities include 12 fully enclosed first class suites with flat beds and sliding doors that can be opened or closed at will for privacy.

Other features include quieter cabins, revolutionary lighting to help reset body clocks and minimize jet lag, the world's most advanced in-flight entertainment, with 500-plus channels, and room service, an Emirates first, wherein passengers may phone the galley to order meals, served at their seat at the time of their choice.

Spanish friends on a whirlwind visit

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

ALVARO and **Carmen de Salas** were recent visitors in Cebu. He is the counsellor and deputy chief of mission at the Spanish Embassy in Manila. Both hail from Zaragoza in the region of Aragon, and they came to look up friends in Cebu who also have roots there.

They had three hectic days, with the Marriott Hotel as a convenient springboard. It is very well located, right smack in Cebu's version of Makati—the Cebu Business Park—and quite close to the Ayala Center mall.

Livelihood project

On Day 1, straight from the airport, they went to the showroom of the St. Joseph Crochet project, which is the home of **Enrique** and **Lulu Aboitiz.** Ms Aboitiz instituted this many years back as a livelihood project for women (and some of their husbands) who were taught how to crochet beautiful products, some of which have ended up in palaces of European royalty.

Lulu regaled them with stories, and so did her sister-in-law **Miren Aboitiz de Achaval**, here on vacation from Florida.

Lunch was at the Golden Cowrie, a Cebu landmark for excellent seafood since 1982. Alvaro and Carmen loved the mussels, the scallops, the *kitong*, the tuna belly and, to cap it all, luscious Cebu mangoes, which are now at the height of their season.

Dinner was with **Ma. Pilar Escaño** and her daughter **Anna Maria** at the Casino Español, which is temporarily located at the ornate Garcia-Escaño mansion while the new building is being completed. Ma. Pilar and Anna give Spanish lessons at the Casino.

On Day 2, the couple visited Casa rondo, a house from the 19th century kept up as a museum of that era by the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation. There were visits as well to Cebu's famed furniture makers like Mehitabel, Pacific Traders and **Kenneth Cobonpue**, who, with his German wife **Susanna**, gave them a tour of ultra-modern designs on display.

On Day 3, Alvaro and Carmen woke up early, knowing that devotees of Our Lady of Pilar would have their monthly Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the nearby chapel of the Asilo dela Milagrosa. On display was a replica of the statue venerated in Zaragoza's famous basilica. As luck would have it, Fr. **Jose Burgues** of the Piarist Fathers, who said the Mass, also hails from Aragon, in particular the town of Alcañiz in Teruel province.

The rest of the day was spent visiting Italkarat, which makes Faberge-like frames in wood or leather adorned with silver, enjoying *tapas* at the poolside of Montebello, and taking a brief rest before motoring to the airport.

"We will return," Alvaro and Carmen told their friends. That better be soon, chorused the founders of a newly formed organization, Amigos de España en Cebu, Filipinas.

Cultural activities

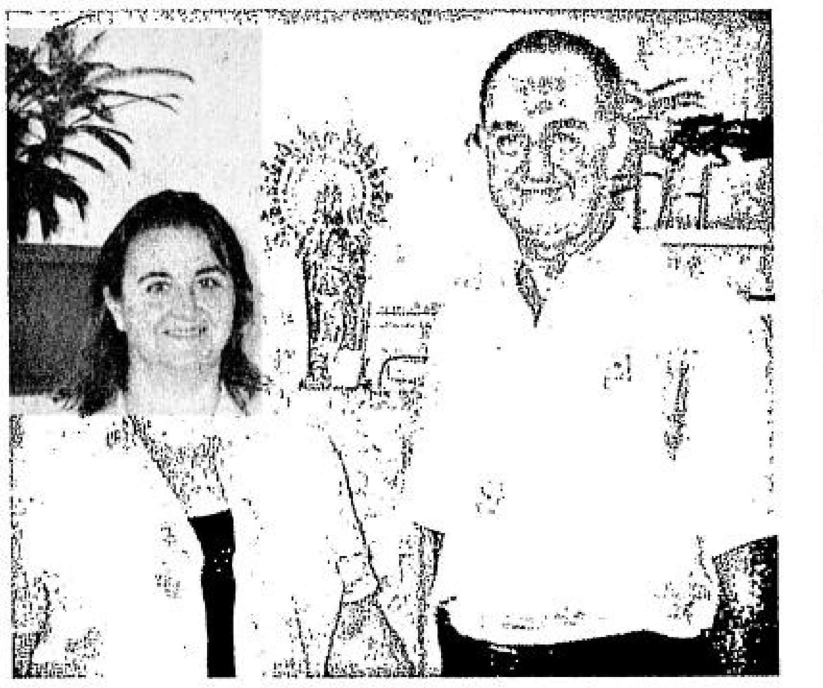
Amigos has been formalized only now, but it all started as a movement in 1987 to assist the Centro Cultural of the Spanish Embassy in its cultural activities with the Casino Español de Cebu.

One of these activities is the regular lessons in the Spanish language coordinated by **Ma. Pilar Escaño** and her cousin **Cecilia Rodriguez Villaroya**. They'd like to expand these to screen showings, lectures, exhibits and the performing arts.

With the completion of the new Casino Español, there will be an excellent venue for these events. The club is an exclusive one, but the classes and all the cultural events are open to the public. In the past, most of them have been offered free admission.

Heading Amigos de España en Cebu is **Amparito Lhuillier** as president, ably assisted by VP **Susan Montenegro Sala**, secretary **Myra Gonzalez y Osmeña**, treasurer **Julina Pando Muertegui** and **Rosario de Veyra Utzurrum** as PRO.

In the board of directors are **Annie Osmeña Aboitiz, Paqui Melendez Aboitiz, Marian Cabarrus Aboitiz, Annabelle Corn Lu Ym, Joaquina Melendez, Teresing Adad Mendezona, Gema Luisa Pido, Ma. Pilar** and **Anna Escaño**, and **Cecilia Rodriguez.**



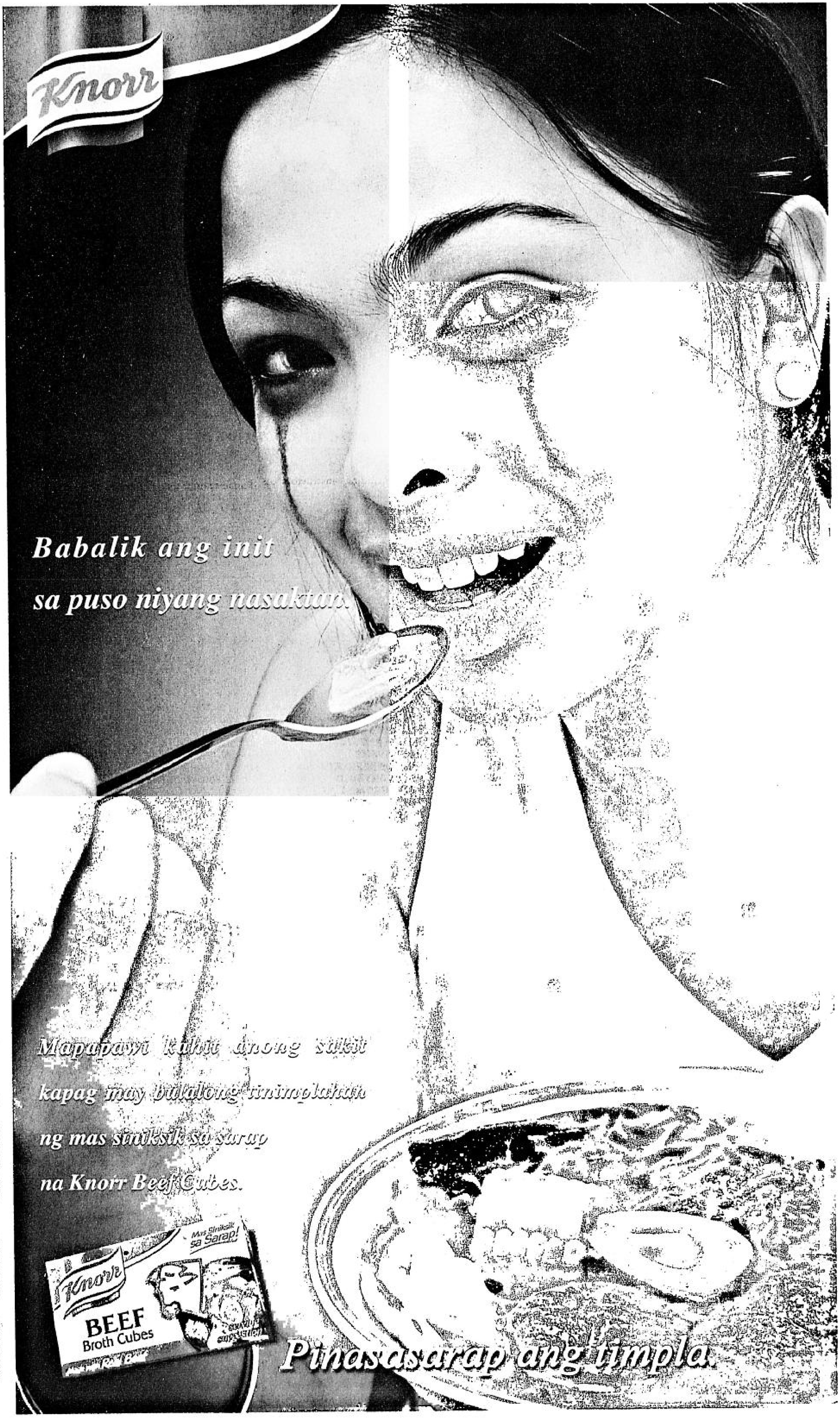
CARMEN and Alvaro de Salas with Our Lady of Pilar

QUINA Melendez, Gema Pido and Julina Muertegui

MYRA Gonzalez, Teresing Mendezona and Amparito Lhuillier

ANNA Maria Escaño, Ma. Pilar Escaño and Susan Sala

ROSARIO Utzurrum, Cecilia Rodriguez and Paqui Aboitiz



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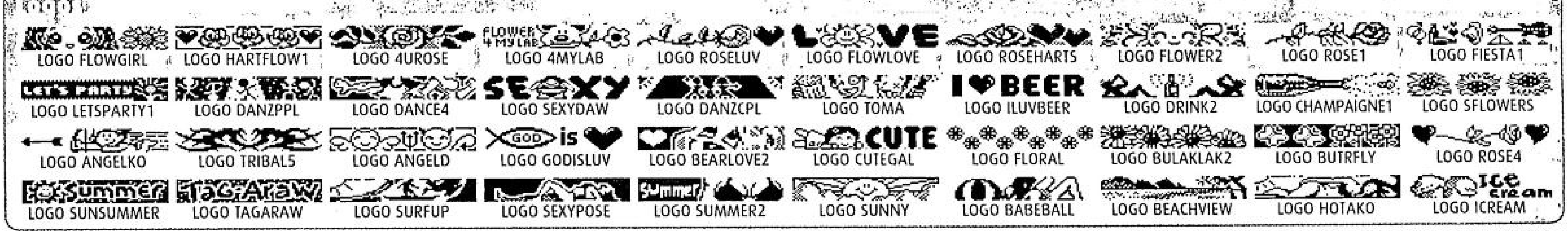
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LOGO LETSPARTY1, LOGO DANZPPL, LOGO DANCE4, LOGO SEXYDAW, LOGO DANZCPL, LOGO TOMA, LOGO ILUVBEER, LOGO DRINK2, LOGO CHAMPAIGNE1, LOGO SFLOWERS

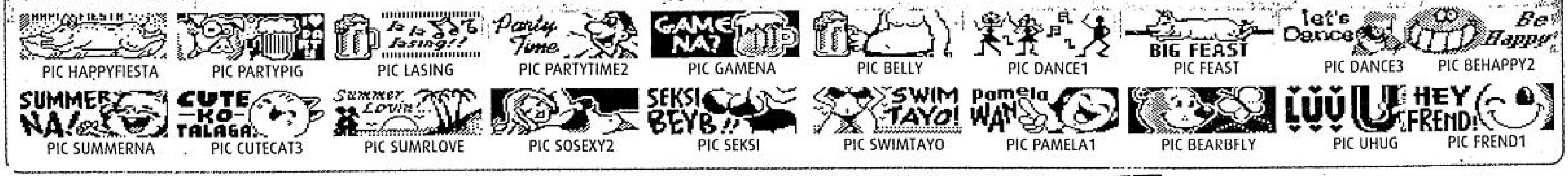
LOGO ANGELKO, LOGO TRIBAL5, LOGO ANGELD, LOGO GODISLUV, LOGO BEARLOVE2, LOGO CUTEGAL, LOGO FLORAL, LOGO BULAKLAK2, LOGO BUTRFLY, LOGO ROSE4

LOGO SUNSUMMER, LOGO TAGARAW, LOGO SURFUP, LOGO SEXYPOSE, LOGO SUMMER2, LOGO SUNNY, LOGO BABEBALL, LOGO BEACHVIEW, LOGO HOTAKO, LOGO ICREAM

Song title	**Artist/Composer**	**Mono**	**Poly New!**
Milkshake	*Kelis*	**TONE MILKSHAKE**	**POLY MILKSHAKE**
Dirt Off Your Shoulder	*Jay-Z*	**TONE DIRTOFF**	**POLY DIRTOFF**
Iz U	*Nelly*	**TONE IZU**	**POLY IZU**
Clap Back	*Ja Rule*	**TONE CLAPBACK**	**POLY CLAPBACK**
Bootylicious	*Beyonce*	**TONE BOOTYLI**	**POLY BOOTYLI**
Rock The Boat	*Aaliyah*	**TONE ROCKTHE**	**POLY ROCKTHE**
Powerless	*Nelly Furtado*	**TONE POWERLESS**	**POLY POWERL**
Wanksta	*50 Cent*	**TONE WANKSTA**	**POLY WANKSTA**
Gimme The Light	*Sean Paul*	**TONE GIMME**	**POLY GIMME**
Underneath It All	*No Doubt*	**TONE UNDERNEATH**	**POLY UNDERNEATH**
Can't Hold Us Down	*Christina Aguilera*	**TONE CANTHOLD**	**POLY CANTHOLD**
I Promise I Will	*Stacie Orrico*	**TONE I PROMISE**	**POLY IPROMISE**
Can't Get You Out Of My Head	*Kylie Minogue*	**TONE CANTGETU**	**POLY CANTGET**
White Flag	*Dido*	**TONE WHITEF**	**POLY WHITEF**
Behind Blue Eyes	*Limp Bizkit*	**TONE BEHINDB**	**POLY BEHINDB**

Song title	**Artist/Composer**	**Mono**	**Poly New!**
Maybe Tomorrow	*Stereophonics*	**TONE MAYBETOMO**	**POLY MAYBETOMO**
Numb	*Linkin Park*	**TONE NUMB**	**POLY NUMB**
Feeling This	*Blink 182*	**TONE FEELINGT**	**POLY FEELINGT**
Fly Away	*Lenny Kravitz*	**TONE FLYAWAY**	**POLY FLYAWAY**
My Immortal	*Evanescence*	**TONE IMMORTAL**	**POLY IMMORTAL**
We Will Rock You	*Queen*	**TONE ROCKYOU**	**POLY WEWILL**
Awit Ng Kabataan	*Rivermaya*	**TONE KABATAAN**	**POLY KABATAAN**
Sembreak	*Eraserheads*	**TONE SEMBREAK**	**POLY SEMBREAK**
Perfect	*True Faith*	**TONE PERFECT**	**POLY PERFECT**
Friend Of Mine	*Kuh Ledesma*	**TONE FRIENDOF**	**POLY FRIENDOF**
Don't Know What To Say	*Ric Sigreto*	**TONE WAT2SAY**	**POLY WAT2SAY**
Vengabus (We Like To Party)	*Venga Boys*	**TONE VENGABUS**	**POLY VENGABUS**
Dancing Queen	*Abba*	**TONE DANCEQUEEN**	**POLY DANCEQUEEN**
Asereje	*Las Ketchup*	**TONE ASEREJE**	**POLY ASEREJE**
Born To Be Wild	*Steppen Wolf*	**TONE BORN2BE**	**POLY BORNWILD**

Picture messages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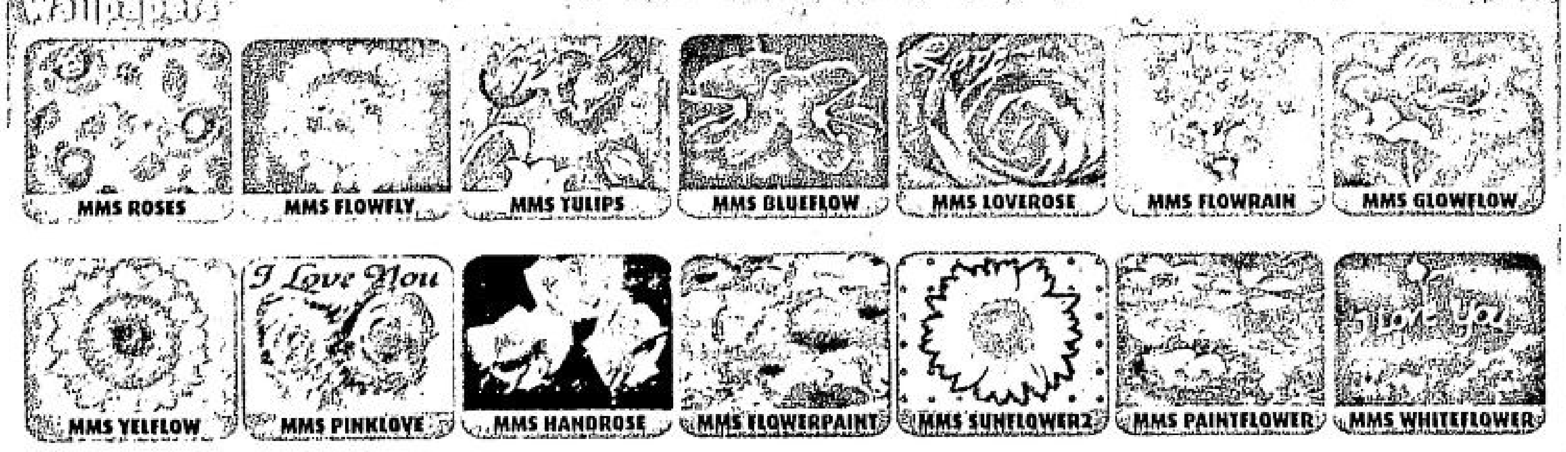
PIC SUMMERNA, PIC CUTECAT3, PIC SUMRLOVE, PIC SOSEXY2, PIC SEKSI, PIC SWIMTAYO, PIC PAMELA1, PIC BEARBFLY, PIC UHUG, PIC FREND1

Wallpapers


MMS ROSES, MMS FLOWFLY, MMS YULIPS, MMS BLUEFLOW, MMS LOVEROSE, MMS FLOWRAIN, MMS GLOWFLOW

MMS YELFLOW, MMS PINKLOVE, MMS HANDROSE, MMS FLOWERPAINT, MMS SUNFLOWER2, MMS PAINTFLOWER, MMS WHITEFLOWER

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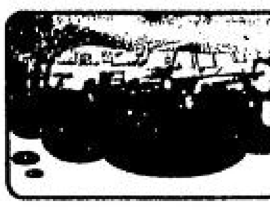

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Note. In order for you to identify which musical work the ringtone in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ringtone.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

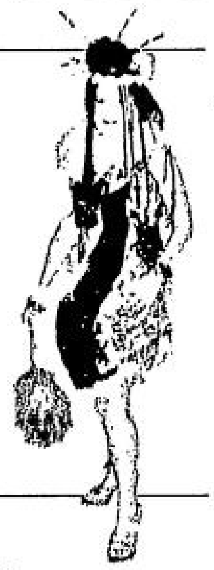
COLORFUL guests of the "Morning Girls" show with Korina Sanchez

So many things are happening this summer, so keep cool by wearing happy earth hues

Brown is beautiful!

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes



BROWN has become my new pink.

Preparing for an African safari last month, I was going through my closet when I realized my clothes' color palette does not include any shade of brown or similar earth tones like olive, mocha or taupe (for those colorblind, these are shades of mud).

To make sure I was not going to be a color violator, some panic shopping at the Power Plant Mall was in order. Still in my belly dancing costume (my classes with expressive dancer **Ginajane Grey** are at the Rockwell Club next door), I went through the selections of Mango, Kamiseta, Bayo, Waipai and British India and discovered a whole new world of brown.

Phone fabric parade

Serendipitously, the first event I attended after my trip had a brown and beige color theme. At the launch of the new Nokia 7200, Metro Magazine got five innovative (and all my favorite) designers to use the fabric of the phone to do their creations.

Yes, the phone has a fabric portion and is interchangeable with other more personal choices. Clearly.this is a lady's phone. I don't think men would bother to change the material on the cover of the phone unless they are, how shall I put it, the ones that are quite comfortable with their feminine side.

Before you all accuse me of gay-bashing, let me give you a great example. Metro's top executive and adventure-racer/traithlete, **Ernie Lopez**, told me his material of choice for this phone would be black neoprene. But then again, he is also colorblind so that does not matter. Because of this trait, his fun wife **Jeena** was the one I co-ordinated with when we worked on the interiors of their Rockwell unit. It would have been a disaster otherwise.

Fresh from Africa and as inspired as I was, the **Rajo Laurel** line was travel wear. The models even had suitcases and umbrellas

BROWN/12

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Clé Souren

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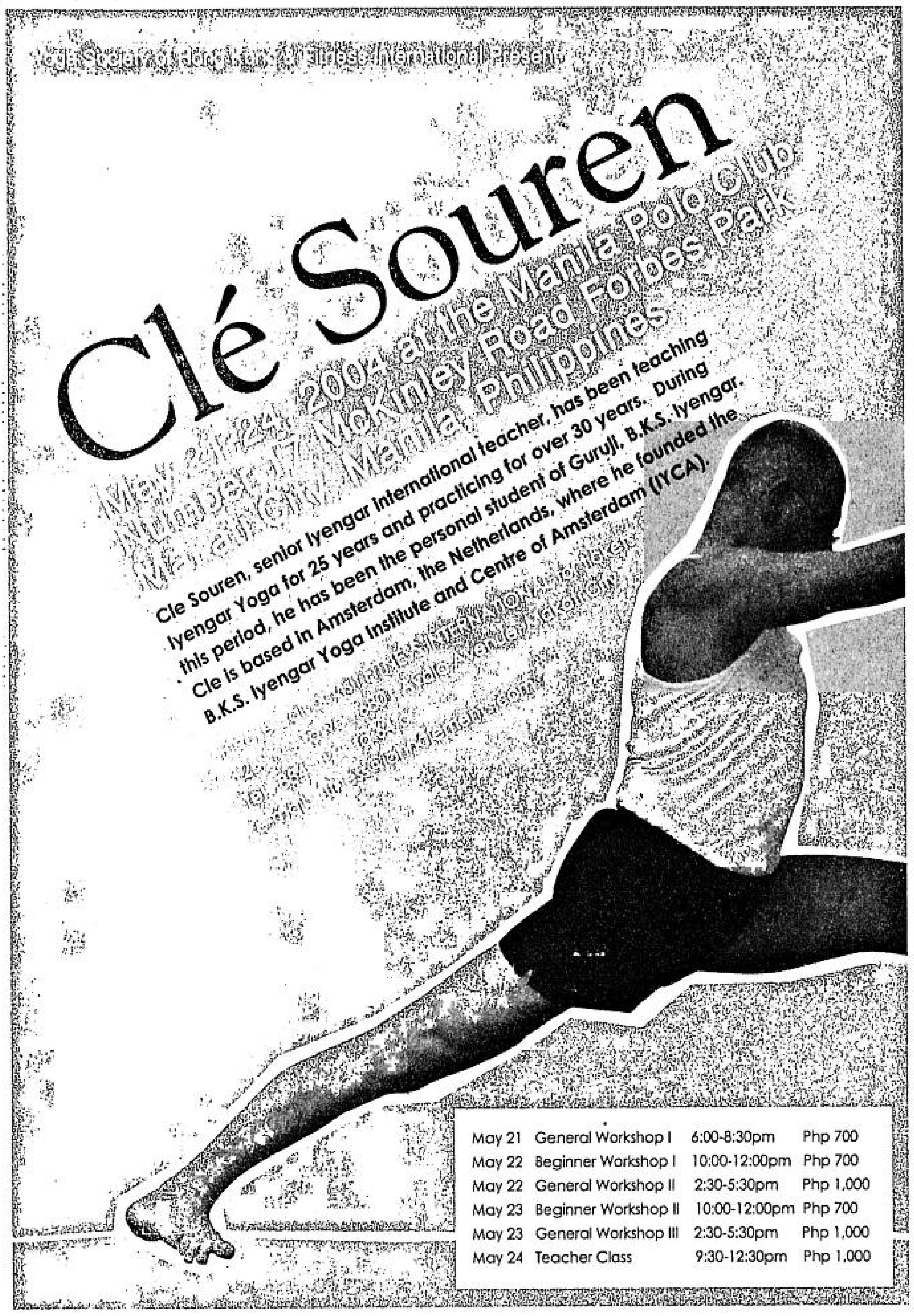
Cle Souren, senior Iyengar International teacher, has been teaching Iyengar Yoga for 25 years and practicing for over 30 years. During this period, he has been the personal student of Guruji, B.K.S. Iyengar. Cle is based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where he founded the B.K.S. Iyengar Yoga Institute and Centre of Amsterdam (IYCA).



May 21	General Workshop I	6:00-8:30pm	Php 700
May 22	Beginner Workshop I	10:00-12:00pm	Php 700
May 22	General Workshop II	2:30-5:30pm	Php 1,000
May 23	Beginner Workshop II	10:00-12:00pm	Php 700
May 23	General Workshop III	2:30-5:30pm	Php 1,000
May 24	Teacher Class	9:30-12:30pm	Php 1,000

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CHILL-OUT FRIENDS. Jonathan Matti, Jay Cu-Unjieng and Andrew Gan

REGATTA guests Philip Cruz Cheese Ledesma and Joel Sa

WITH TAGAYTAY Highlands family and pals Michelle Soliven, John Fernandez, Tina Fernandez, Willy Ocier and Belinda Herrera

FUNKY designer Kate Torral with her Levi's 501 "Printces design

Brown is beautiful!

From page 11

made of the Nokia material. Knitwear queen **Lulu Tan-Gan** incorporated sexy woven lines and ever-so-feminine silhouettes. **Patrice Ramos-Diaz** also came up with romantic renditions. Both creative designers **Rhett Eala** and **Dennis Lustico** displayed the fabric in long gowns.

Hair majesty

Simultaneously happening that evening was another event with a more shocking tone of brown as its theme. L'Oreal Kerastase Nutri-Sculpt was unveiled in the Lumiere Art Gallery, where hair models were in bright orange outfits to match the new hair products line.

Hair care has gone beyond just shampoo and conditioner, with a new step added to the process. It's called "texturize," the part that protects and enhances hair before and after styling. With the amount of time I spend at Emphasis Salon, my dry, sensitized hair really needs all three steps. Thank God I still have my wigs for those bad hair days.

With my hair in between coloring and my whites and true hair color starting to show (totally a major disaster), I decided to use a full-braid wig together with a Spring Bock skin and feather headgear for the opening of Levi's Icon Store.

Coming in Levi's 501 embellished jeans by Rajo Laurel, I was still in my brown phase. Rajo had temporarily converted an impala skin into a blouse, making me look like a tribal chief. Now I know how the animals are protected from the cold. It was hot, but I had to suffer in the name of vanity.

Levi's had asked different personalities to get creative with a pair of 501s. Top couturier **Inno Sotto** did an elegant black-and-white domino pattern. Inno is not only one of the country's prime designers; last Friday, Unesco also chose him as a cultural attaché.

Food guru **Gaita Fores**, who also did the menu at the Nokia event, created a pasta patchwork on her jeans while sexy mom **Tricia Cu-Unjieng** silk-screened family photos on hers. INQUIRER Super's **Tim Yap** didn't leave any denim to be seen as he covered his pair with colorful jackstones and water guns.

Ultra chic ladies **Bea Valdes** and **Mandy Santos** turned their pairs into brilliant works of art in fish and flower themes, respectively. Mandy was represented by her bubbly sister **Gabby**, because Mandy is "on the way" with her first child with hubby **Duane**. I am sure she will be such a stylish mom and back to her skinny form soon after. No big maternity dresses for this gal.

Regatta chic

Another wig I resurrected recently was my gigantic black Afro wig. Still in hair limbo, I donned that wig with Regatta clothes, enhanced by the shop's cool designer for summer **Tippi Ocampo**.

Regatta's new owners, **Mia Floirendo** and **Carissa Cruz**, had asked me to cut the ribbon of their flagship store in Glorietta 3.

The opening had a mini-art exhibit of sketches by **Mel Mora**. Selected friends of the owners, all in Regatta clothes, were drawn by her. By some amazing coincidence, Mel drew one of my poses with an Afro wig. And to think I had never met her before this event, and the wig was a last-minute addition. Either I'm getting predictable or this girl is psychic.

After cutting the ribbon with other gorgeous guests like **Dawn Zulueta** and **Nicole Schulze**, I rushed to Tagaytay to spend the weekend there. Tagaytay Highlands kicked off its 10th-year celebrations with a swinging Side A concert. Even at the height of summer, the weather was so pleasant. It just got hot when I started dancing to the band's version of '80s tunes. My ostrich feathers (in the shade of brown, of course) lost all their fluff!

My last event of this brown week was shown on national TV. **Tim Yap** and I were guests on "Morning Girls" on ABS-CBN. Topic was so apropos—unusual dressers. Tim and I are like peas from the same pod when it comes to pantaloons and punctuality.

We perpetually call each other to get time references for the events we go to. We are, on average, the last two guests to arrive, but our tardiness always gets forgotten when the hosts see our efforts at dressing up.

At the show, it was only **Korina Sanchez** hosting so we all had a fair share of the mike. Korina is really an efficient host in the sense that she acts like a perfect moderator, giving equal opportunities to all the guests.

Not that Tim and I were battling for airtime, but Korina spaced her questions and we all had a good rapport. Unfortunately, I was not able to see **Kris Aquino** and tell her about my new favorite color thanks to my African adventures.

So many events are happening this summer, so wear happy earth colors and keep cool. Don't forget to conserve water and shower with a friend.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

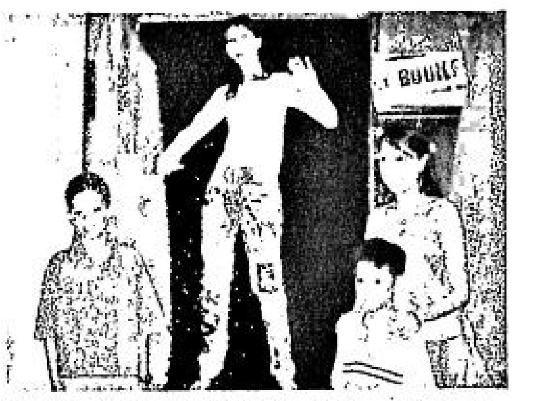
GORGEOUS guest of honor Dawn Zulueta and Regatta image model Nicole Schulze

STYLISH model sisters Rissa Samson and Raya Mananquil

ULTRA-fashionable Joyce Oreña

PLAYFUL jeans by INQUIRER Super's Tim Yap

BEADED jeans by Bea Valdes, flanked by Marga Valdes and Archie Rodriguez



FAMILY AFFAIR. Tricia Cu-Unjieng with her cute boys, Quintin and Matteo

HAIRSTYLING drama by Lourd of Emphasis Salon with Rita Trillo

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FUN couple JM and Iya Lagdameo

CLOSE cousins Kit Zobel and Cathy Lichauco

CHIC Angelique Villaraza of L'Oreal and inventive chef Rolando Laudico

COOL guests at Nokia, Jeena Lopez and Barbie Pardo

BEST friends Cheese Ledesma and Carissa Cruz

SALON king David Charlton and Vicky Encarnacion

CREATIVE designers and executives at the Nokia 7200 launch at the Power Plant Mall

PARTY girl Be Abeleda with pretty sisters Victoria and Rosario Herrera

MARIDOL Ylanan, Luanne Erni, and Nokia top exec Parikshit Bhasin

"PSYCHIC" artist Mel Mora and Anton Barretto of Pineapple

STYLISH former Regatta owners Mia Borromeo and Lizzie Zobel

LEVI'S icons at the first Levi's Icon shop at the Power Plant Mall

YOUNG Regatta owners Triccia Tarriela, Michelle Castillo, Mia Floirendo and Carissa Cruz

JANINE and Teddy Dario at the Nokia launch

HAIR and makeup master Jesi Mendez

COOL summer designer Tippi Ocampo with Afro me

METRO friends Roca Cruz and Ernie Lopez

NICKELODEON
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3. Drop in Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog stands nationwide or mail to #20 San Roque St., Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City.
4. Deadline for entries is on May 15, 2004.
5. All non-winning entries in the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards raffle sponsored by Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog last March 17, 2004 will automatically be eligible to join in this promo.
6. Draw date is on May 19, 2004.
7. Prizes are as follows:
    a. Toy raid worth P25,000
    b. 10 Sony Playstations 2
    c. 10 Globe Prepaid Units
    d. 10 Mountain Bikes
    e. 10 Super Yoyos
    f. 10 Timezone Gift Certificates worth P1,000 each
    g. 10 Toy Kingdom Gift Certificates worth P1,000 each
    h. 10 sets of Enchanted Kingdom Tickets for 4
    i. 50 Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards Jackets
    j. 50 Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards caps
8. Employees of San Miguel Purefoods, Purefoods-Hormel, JimenezBasic Advertising and Nickelodeon, and their relatives up to the fifth degree of consanguinity or affinity, are not allowed to join the contest.

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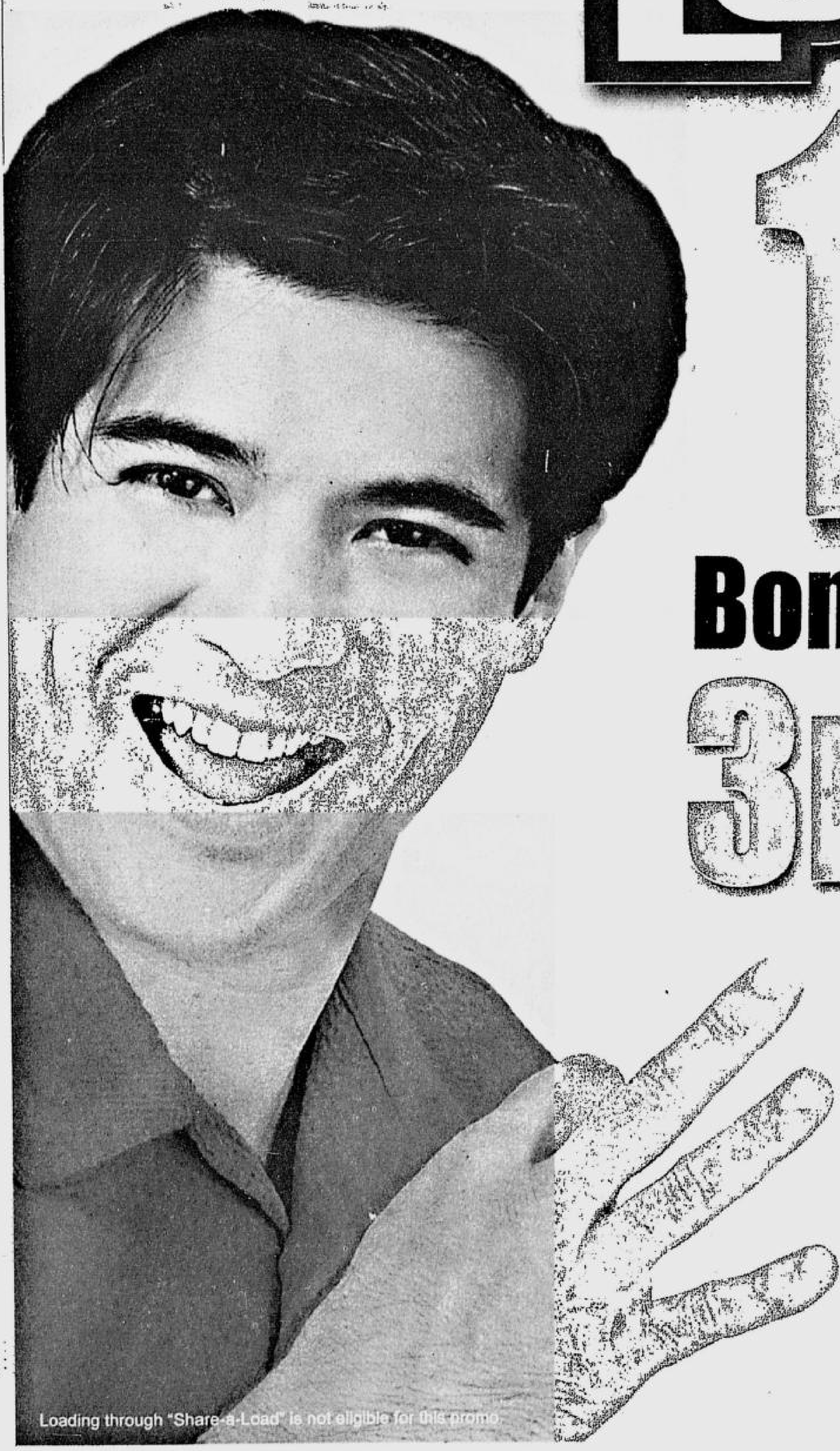

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Candidates with hands-on experience in putting up sites/ facilities and subsequently managing the provision of support services to Operations (together with the attendant vendor/supplier relations/management) are invited.

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Our client, one of the world's largest banks, seeks to employ highly qualified and service-oriented individuals to assume the following vital positions:

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Keyword: <UMTL>

- Graduate of any business course;
- With at least three years' cumulative experience in an international call center, one year of which is in a supervisory level;
- Exposure in sales functions, is an advantage;
- Possess excellent communication skills; and
- Willing to work on graveyard shifts.

CUSTOMER CARE ASSOCIATES

Keyword: <CCA>

- College level or graduates of any course;
- With or without experience in customer service;
- Exposure in an international call center, is an advantage;
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- With Business Math skills and has the ability to work in high-volume, fast-paced environment; and
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Our client offers a very competitive compensation package to the chosen candidates. Please forward your resumes with contact phone numbers to the address below or send **SMS** by typing **Profile(space)<keyword> (space) <name, cellphone & landline numbers and send to 700JOBS (700-5627)**. FOR SMART USERS ONLY.

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Look for: **Rowena Aquino**
E-mail Address: rowena.aquino@johnclements.com
visit: www.johnclements.com

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Our client, a leading multinational company is looking for highly competent and results-oriented professionals to assume the following positions:

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISORS

Keyword: <FIN014>

- Degree holders of Accountancy or any related business course; CPA or with MBA units desirable;
- With minimum five years of experience, three years of which is in supervisory level in the fields of Accounts Payable, Cost Control, Supply Chain Accounting, Auditing or Inventory Control;
- Experience in SAP or ERP is desirable.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS

Keyword: <FIN015>

- Graduates of Accounting, CPA or non-CPA;
- Equipped with 2 years' experience in handling Accounts Payable, Cost Control, Supply Chain Accounting, Auditing or Inventory Control;
- Fresh Graduates may also apply.

Candidates for all positions should have strong Excel and Powerpoint skills. MS ACCESS knowledge is a plus.

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EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL SECRETARY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER
HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT

FINANCE AND GENERAL ACCOUNTING

GENERAL ACCOUNTANTS (CPA)
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ACCOUNTANT
TAX AND IMPORT ACCOUNTANT
ACCOUNTING STAFF/ASSISTANT

TECHNICAL and ENGINEERING for TELECOMS & IT

SENIOR RADIO NETWORK DESIGN ENGINEER
PLANNING AND OPTIMIZATION ENGINEER
TRANSMISSION NETWORK DESIGN ENGINEER
NETWORK INTEGRATOR
JAVA PROGRAMMER / DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
ORACLE / SAP/ .NET DEVELOPER

SALES AND MARKETING

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
TELEMARKETER
MARKETING ASSISTANT
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The job requires sales proficiency gained from industries such as Telecommunications, Internet, Manufacturing, Information Technology, Training and other service oriented industries. He/She should have at least 2 years corporate selling experience in sales and marketing gained from service-oriented organizations.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS (RC)

The person will be tasked to handle sourcing, interviewing, and evaluation of candidates. We are looking for graduates of Psychology or any related course with at least 2 years experience in Recruitment gained from service-oriented industries, such as call centers, IT, Telecommunication, Manufacturing.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (EA)

Candidates should be creative, resourceful, with good analytical mind coupled with a pleasing personality. She should have a strong and positive attitude towards works, highly conscientious with a high sense of responsibility. She should be a graduate of Management, Social Sciences, Business Administration or other related courses from highly reputable schools and with at least 5 years experience as an Executive Secretary/Assistant to top level management. She should have very good exposure/background in travel arrangement, which includes ticketing, hotel reservations, car rentals, etc.

HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANT (HRA)

The lucky candidate will be tasked to handle the recruitment, compensation & benefits. He/She must be a graduate of BS psychology or any related course with at least 2 years related experience as a Generalist. He/She must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills and can work under minimum supervision.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS (AA)

The post is open to Accounting graduates from reputable schools who are not over 30 years old. A 1 year experience in the different areas in Accounting (i.e. disbursement, bookkeeping, preparation and analysis of financial statements, general accounting, trial balance, etc.) is a must.

CUSTOMER CARE & COLLECTION ASSISTANTS (CCCA)

We are looking for accounting graduates; CPA is an advantage. She must have at least 1 year experience in collection and customer relations.

TELEMARKETERS (TEL)

The successful candidate will be tasked to market and promote the services of the company to the local and international markets. He/She must have excellent oral and written communication skills with at least 2 years experience in the same capacity gained from service oriented companies.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS (ADA)

Candidates will be tasked to assist in canvassing, faxing, sorting of inventories, receipts for request. Assist in distribution of orders and typing of accountability forms. She must be a Business administration graduate with at least 2 years experience in administration and purchasing. She must also be a computer literate.

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WAIKATO UNIVERSITY – HAMILTON - The University of Waikato is a government funded university with enrollment of 13,000 students and approximately 3,000 international students from 60 countries around the world.

MASSEY UNIVERSITY – AUCKLAND, PALMERSTON NORTH AND WELLINGTON - Massey is New Zealand's largest university with 38,000 students in four campuses within three cities in New Zealand. ***EPIL will be conducting special interviews for part scholarships towards tuition fees for students enrolling in Engineering programs at Massey University.***

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SHOULD YOU WISH TO MEET THE COUNSELORS PRIVATELY FOR INFORMATION, ENROLMENT OR SCHOLARSHIP ADVICE, PLEASE CONTACT **NADINE AT 09173289582** TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT. COUNSELING SESSIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO OR COME MEET US AT A SEMINAR ON **MAY 4, 2004 6PM AT THE METRO PACIFIC CASEROOM OF THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT.** PLEASE CALL THE SAME NUMBER FOR RESERVATIONS.

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FACILITIES ENGINEER
JOB CODE *A-M-FE*
5+ years experience in the construction, maintenance, and operation of facilities, licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer preferred. should be open to being on call 24 x 7

HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGER
JOB CODE *HR-M-HCM*
5+ years experience in human resources, with heavy emphasis on recruitment, experience in high volume, process-oriented recruitment as well as management recruitment

OPERATIONS MANAGER
JOB CODE *O-M-OM*
5+ years operations management experience in a call center environment, Client or account management experience

WORKFORCE ANALYST
JOB CODE *WF-M-WA*
2+ years management experience in a call center environment, background in workforce management or forecasting and scheduling

TEAM MANAGERS JOB CODE: *O-M-TM*
TEAM SUPERVISORS JOB CODE: *O-M-TS*
TRAINERS JOB CODE: *PSU-M-T*
MANAGEMENT TRAINEES JOB CODE: *PSU-M-MT*
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS OFFICER JOB CODE: *HR-M-ERO*
COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS OFFICER JOB CODE: *HR-M-CBO*
HR ASSOCIATES JOB CODE: *HR-M-A*
NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER JOB CODE: *IT-M-NE*
TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS JOB CODE: *IT-M-TT*
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERS JOB CODE: *IT-M-TE*
SALES OFFICERS JOB CODE: *S-M-SO*

Interested in these positions?
JUST EMAIL YOUR RESUME TO:
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com
IMPORTANT: PLEASE INDICATE **JOB CODE** ON THE SUBJECT LINE

We VALUE professional development
We LISTEN to our employees

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL:
755-26HR
www.peoplesupport.com

12-14F PhilamLife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1200
29-33F Robinson's Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
9, 21 & 25F ExportBank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1200
e-Office One. AsiaTown IT Park, Apas, Lahug, Cebu City 6000
1100 Glendon Ave., Suite 1250 Los Angeles, CA 90024

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS FROM DATE OF APPLICATION

Coffey

Gender Equality Advisor

Coffey Philippines Inc., a local entity providing consulting, administrative and project management services in the Philippines, is seeking a **Gender Equality Advisor (GEA)** for its Philippines-Canada Cooperation Office (PCCO) project to support and promote program-wide gender integration for a donor agency, essentially by:

- providing reliable information and expert advice on national and sectoral level gender issues, including opportunities and risks;
- providing technical assistance and expert advice to specific projects including linking them to suitable Gender resources such as experts, tools, models or references, networks and relevant organizations;
- supporting enhancement of Gender capacity of the Manila Office and its partners; and
- facilitating exchange and sharing of experiences and lessons in Gender mainstreaming implementation.

The consultant should have a university degree, preferably at the masters or doctorate level, or equivalent in social science or other relevant discipline; at least ten years experience in international development work, including demonstrated experience in the following: gender equality policy, gender mainstreaming, gender analysis, planning and programming; program/project management; and other relevant experience such as developing and applying participatory approaches in consultation, networking, monitoring and research, and working with donor agencies on their gender equality program especially in relation with governance, private sector development and/or environment.

The GEA will be on a part-time consulting engagement, reporting for work at the PCCO Makati office, based on an agreed upon frequency and time. For further details, please refer to the Terms of Reference for this consulting position posted under the Opportunities/Jobs page of the PCCO website (www.pcco.org.ph).

Please e-mail (Subject: GEA) your CV, highlighting gender expertise and related experience in the areas of governance and private sector development, to pcco@pcco.org.ph. Deadline for submission is at **12noon, Friday, 7 May 2004.**

Marketing and Promotions

- College Graduate
- Not more than 40 yrs.
- Skills in oral and written communication
- Must posses driver's license
- Pleasing personality

Submit or mail your application, resumé, NBI Clearance, Previous employer's clearance to HRD No. 3 San Antonio St., Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City

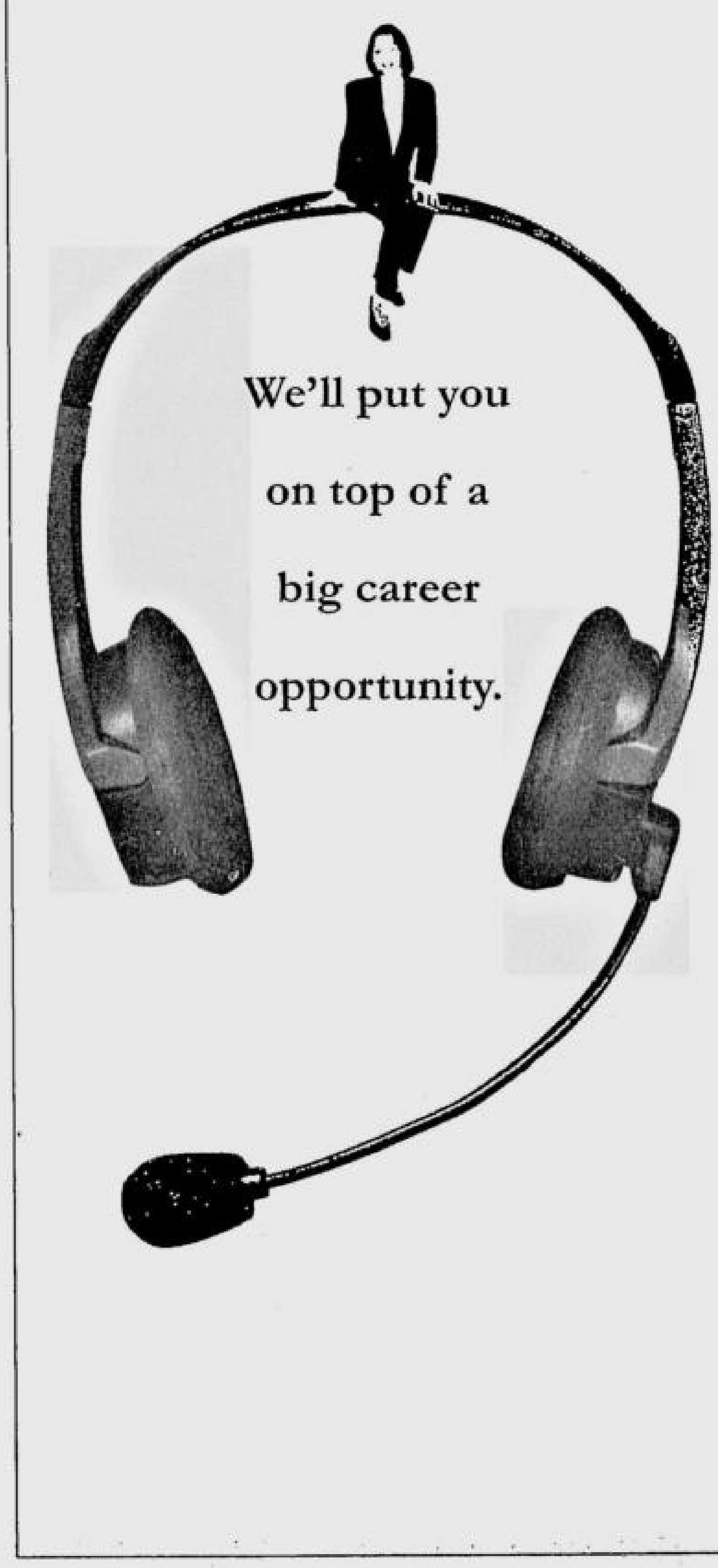
---

IMMEDIATE NEED

A foreign company is in need of:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES – Female with pleasing personality, Fluent in English, College Graduate, w/ experience in Sales, Architecture/Civil Engr. background may be an advantage.

PROJECT COORDINATOR - CE Grad., hardworking, well-organized, we welcome fresh graduates. Please bring resumé to: ADCO BLUE CTC, Unit U, GF Facilities Center Condo. #548 Shaw Blvd., Mand. City Tel. No. 5322365 / 5327724



Whether you're a fresh grad looking for a big break, a student needing to fund a college degree, or a seasoned worker in a mid-career change, ASIA Call Center Link will put you on board the biggest call centers in the country. We are the foremost recruitment, training, and consultancy experts in the country, and we're setting our sights on aspiring call center professionals. We'll not only link you with a prospective employer, we'll also provide you with internationally accredited training to make sure you qualify. So if you're a college graduate or undergraduate, fluent in written and spoken English, computer-literate, driven, motivated, and itching to make it big in the call center industry, send us your resumé for immediate processing and we'll put you on top of a big career opportunity.

ASIA Call Center Link
Unit 1606, Tower One
Ayala Triangle, Makati City,
Philippines
848-6980
asialink@asiapartners.net
www.asiapartners.net

A division of ASIA Partnership
Philippines, Inc.
Setting GLOBAL standards in
RECRUITMENT *and* TRAINING
for customer service professionals.

ISO-certified Multi-national Company engage in manufacturing various housing fixtures, committed to quality service and customer satisfaction. Awarded as Top Sectoral Export Performance Citation for Furniture Category are in need of the following personnel.

Assistant Supervisor

- Male / Female at least 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Architecture or any Engineering course
- With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience.
- Knowledge in machine operation for wooden products
- Proficient in windows based programs
- Good inter-personal relationship
- Aggressive analytical and assertive

Programmer

- Male/Female between 21 to 30 years old
- Graduate of any computer course
- Knowledge in ACCESS, ORACLE & VISUAL BASIC
- Good communication skills both oral and written

Assistant Supervisor for Employee Relations

- Responsible for facilitating upward and downward communication within the organization in order to create/maintain an open climate to productivity and employee satisfaction
- Female between 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Psychology/Industrial Relations preferably with masteral degree
- With 1-2 years work experience in the same field
- Computer literate,analytical,people-oriented,good oral and written communication skills

Document Control Staff

- Male/Female between 21-27 years old
- College graduate preferably with BS Degree in Computer Science
- Knowledge in ISO documentation
- Can establish a document control system
- Must be proficient in AUTOCAD 2000
- Good communication skills both oral and written
- Can work under pressure w/o affecting the quality of work
- Can work on extended hours w/ minimal supervision

Video Editor

- Male / Female between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of AB Mass Communication
- Proficient in windows based programs
- With experience in video editing/production
- Knowledge in Adobe Premiere V.6 +Up
- Can work on extended hours w/ minimal supervisions

Company Nurse

- Female between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of BS Nursing
- Experienced in Industrial setting is an advantage
- People oriented and can work on extended hours

Maintenance Staff (urgent hiring)

- Male between 20-35 yrs. old
- Vocational or College Graduate
- With 1 year experience as air-con ref technician or mechanic
- Can read electrical diagram symbol
- Must be familiar in manufacturing machine trouble
- Knowledge in compressor repair
- Knowledge in AVR control

Truck Head Driver (urgent hiring)

- Male at least 30 up to 40 yrs of age
- High school or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
- Experience in Driving Truck Head
- Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- With professional Driver's License(R Code- 6& 3,2,1,)

Forklift Operator (urgent hiring)

- At least High school Vocational College Level
- Male between 20-35 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With knowledge in forklift repair and maintenance
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

SCAD Services(S) Pte., Ltd.

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
BLOCK 23 PHASE 1V ROSARIO,CAVITE

You can mail or hand carry your comprehensive resume with 2 X 2 picture and transcript of records at the above address.
For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437 – 0849 to 51.
Look for Christian Bonifacio or you can e-mail your resume at hrd_scad@pacific.net.ph

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We are the leading provider of IT and business solutions to the airline industry worldwide. With headquarters in Minneapolis (US), we also operate offices in Salt Lake City (US); Austin (US), Prague (Czech), Sydney (AUS), and Manila (Phil.). Combining broad industry expertise, in-depth products & leading technology services, Navitaire's global team provides unparalleled solutions to our clients.

Be part of our team! We are looking for individuals who thrive on challenges and innovations. Learn the industry, build expertise, and create new solutions on board Navitaire!

Technology that liberates.

NAVITAIRE®

20 Programmers/Analysts (Code: PRA)

To participate in the development, maintenance and support of complex airline application software.

Candidates must have knowledge and experience in any of the following: Object-Oriented Design, C++, C#, .NET, *C, Java, Cobol, ASP, Unix, & VB.* Must possess a University degree in Computer Science, Math, Operations Research, or similar discipline with good academic record. Proven excellence in communication (oral and written). With good business acumen and 2-3 years working experience.

Facilities Coordinator (Code: FAC)

To handle general administration such as purchasing, vendor relations, facilities maintenance, workspace/ building issues, security and housekeeping (janitorial) services, events coordination, travel arrangements, administrative support to executives, office layout planning & implementation, office services, records managements, supplies administration, and other related activities.

Candidates must be College graduates. With 3-8 years related experience. Must be willing to put in long hours. Highly flexible to exceed customer expectations. Strong verbal and written communication skills; can develop and effectively communicate policy. Proficient in MS Office (Outlook, Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

Applicants are required to submit resume, transcript of records and recent picture.
Note that priority will be given to candidate with complete requirements.

NAVITAIRE INTERNATIONAL, LLC
16F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo De Roxas Street,
1226 Makati City
FAX: 830-4404
EMAIL: manila.recruiting@navitaire.com
WEBSITE: www.navitaire.com

JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

MARITHÉ + FRANÇOIS GIRBAUD

JVS ASIA, INC. is the exclusive distributor of **Marithé + François Girbaud** Apparels and Accessories in the Philippines. Currently, we are expanding at a rate of 6 store openings per year, and we are in need of:

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Graduate of Business Administration or related courses; MBA degree/units an advantage; 3-5 years managerial experience; He/She will be responsible in the achievement of overall sales and profit targets of the entire operations group.

AREA MANAGERS

- Graduates of business-related courses; 2-3 years relevant experience; He/She will handle 5 to 6 stores & will be responsible in the achievement of sales and profit targets.

INVENTORY MANAGER

- Graduate of Industrial Engineering, Accountancy or other related courses; At least 2 years Managerial experience in handling and monitoring of inventory & product movements preferably from a Supermarket or Grocery operations/inventory group.

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT (HRD) SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of Psychology or any Human Resource-related course; 1-2 years experience in handling Training & Development; Proficient in creating and implementing effective Training Modules/Manuals; With very good leadership skill; Above average computer proficiency.

ACCOUNTANT

- Graduate of Accountancy; 1-2 yrs supervisory experience in handling General Accounting.

PRODUCT SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of Industrial Engineering or Business related courses; With at least 1 year supervisory experience in Quality Control.

FASHION MERCHANDISERS

- Graduates of Arts, Marketing, and Fashion-related courses; Creative; Above average computer proficiency; A good decision maker.

MERCHANDISING SUPERVISORS

- Graduates of four year course, fashionable and computer literate; He/She will lead a team of merchandisers in the design, planning, inventory monitoring and assessment of Girbaud products.

MARKETING SUPERVISORS

- Graduates of Mass Communication or Marketing; Excellent communication skills and with pleasing personality; He/She will handle any of the following: PR & events, research & development or marketing operations.

STORE SUPERVISORS / MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Graduates of business-related courses, w/ at least 1-2 years supervisory experience; He/She will handle the overall store operation: Achievement of Sales, Maintenance of Stocks & Inventory and People Management.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Business Administration or any related course; Well organized and analytic; Excellent in oral and written communication skills; Above average computer proficiency.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Business Management major in Marketing or any business related course; Knowledgeable in Windows, Power Point, Adobe, Desktop Publishing and other computer software; Proficient in both oral and written communication.

Please send or hand-carry your resume w/ 2x2 picture at:
Suite 303 Ortigas Building, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City
Tel. No.(02)636-0057 / 58 /60
Fax No. (02) 636-0059

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Assistant Editor

The Assistant Editor will be part of the editorial team and handling technical editorial operations and ensuring optimum content quality for the trade magazine.

The successful candidate must have excellent English language skills with professional-level business writing expertise. You are required to have a degree in Journalism, Communication, or English with at least 5 years of editorial experience in a supervisory capacity. You must also have the ability to manage a team, meet tight deadlines, and have strong attention to detail. Exposure to international media content can be an advantage.

A competitive remuneration package , business travel opportunities and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested individuals should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

SKECHERS

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

Female/Single, at least 21-25 years of age. With a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Accountancy, Management, or any relevant business course. With exceptional leadership skills/qualities, outstanding mathematical and analytical ability, innate business/entrepreneurial skills, and a keen eye for detail. Must be able to work under pressure and with minimum supervision. With an excellent scholastic record, preferably with honors.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Female/Single, at least 21-25 years of age. Bachelor's degree in Accountancy. Result, deadline and goal-oriented person. With high aptitude in Mathematics and high analytical ability. Proficient in computer applications. With good scholastic record.

GRAPHIC/VISUAL MERCHANDISING ARTIST

Must have a good fashion sense. Adept in computer design software such as Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & Corel Draw. Graduate of Fine Arts, Architecture or other related course. Team player, mature & can work w/ minimum supervision. Male/Female, 23-28 years of age, preferably single.

SALES/OFFICE ASSISTANT

Female/Single, at least 21-25 years of age. Preferably a graduate of Psychology, Accountancy, Business Administration or any related course. Proficient in computer applications. Deadline and people-oriented individual. Can work under pressure with minimum supervision. With good scholastic record.

STORE SUPERVISOR

Female/Single, at least 21-25 years of age. Graduate of any 4-year business course. Organized, systematic, and can work with minimum supervision and with proven leadership skills.

Recruitment Personnel
Unit E-2801A, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Tektite
East Tower,Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-mail : fimc@fastmail.i-next.net

A Dynamic I.T. Company is looking to fill up for the following position:

Telemarketer (immediate hiring)

- ✓ Preferably female, 22 to 30 years old
- ✓ Graduate of any 4-year business courses
- ✓ Preferably with previous sales experience from IT firms
- ✓ Must be good in oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Hardworking, resourceful and w/ good inter-personal skills

Interested applicants may submit their resumé personally at this address:

Suite 1116 State Center Bldg.,
333 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila
Fax # 242-1219 or Email: mediasoft@mediasoft.com
(subject: "position")

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Copy Editor

To edit articles in an international electronic trade journal in print and online versions. Preferably a Bachelor's degree in Engineering/ Mass Communication/Journalism. Must have good English communication skills and a minimum of 2 years work experience as an engineer or technical writer with some exposure to the Internet is essential.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

Teleperformance
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We are looking for YOU

If you possess a sharp customer service sensibility and the enthusiasm to create value for industry-leading companies, we would like to meet you.

Career opportunities exist for

Customer Service Representatives

Requirements:

- Fluent in English
- Computer literate with familiarity with basic Microsoft applications (Word and Excel) and the Internet
- Willing to work varying shifts including graveyard
- Strong attention to detail

The SR Teleperformance Group is a billion dollar global organization ranked by Customer Inter@ction Solutions™ magazine as the No. 1 international provider of outsourced teleservices.

APPLY IN PERSON
4th floor Octagon Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Please bring your updated Curriculum Vitae

ETI Emission Technologies, Inc.

OFFICE MANAGER

US based environment firm is looking for an individual with substantial office management and executive staff assistance for Makati office position. Testing will be required to demonstrate experience in Philippine payroll requirements, bookkeeping skills, math skills, and proficiency in both Word and Excel. A demonstration of 10 working years in office management experience is desired. Experience in overall HR functions is an advantage.

Interested applicants please email resumés inclusive of references to DonnaAlconera@eti-usepa.com or drop them off at UNIT 15A LPL Center, 130 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village Makati on or before May 5th, 2004. Provide Contact number.

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources leads the field in creating and facilitating global trade between buyers and suppliers. We provide trading partners with the right information, at the right time, in the right format.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Communications Assistant

You will write and edit corporate news and reports for the Company's Intranet site, liaise with team members worldwide and handle site development and maintenance projects.

You must have a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts, Journalism or a related discipline, with at least one year experience in corporate communications. Proficiency in writing and editing news, feature and business reports and a sound knowledge of the Internet, HTML and MS Office applications are necessary qualifications. Excellent communication, interpersonal and leadership skills, a good eye for detail and an ability to read and write basic Chinese are an advantage.

Fresh graduates with outstanding academic credentials may also apply.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international, dynamic work environment await the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details, along with sample written works, to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Human Resources Officer

You will be involved in the whole gamut of HR activities e.g. compensation and benefits, recruitment, training and development, performance appraisal and counseling.

This is a critical position that requires a generalist with the ability to organize and relate well with different levels of the organization.

The successful candidate must have a college degree with at least three years experience in a similar position and good communication skills. Knowledge of Microsoft Office is required with familiarity of HTML a definite advantage.

We offer a stimulating, state-of-the-art environment, with opportunity to develop beyond the limitation of the job description and an attractive compensation package.

Those who plan to establish a career in human resources in a multi-cultural setting may send their resume and contact details in any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
Email: gshr@globalsources.com
Fax: (632) 892 4087
Post: P.O. Box 457, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

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www.jobmarketonline.com
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PRINT TOWN GROUP OF COMPANIES

(Official printer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Libre, Asian Wall Street Journal, Cebu Daily News, Bandera, Tumbok)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Female
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Certified Public Accountant
- With at least 6-10 years of extensive work experience in accounting, taxation, cost accounting, reports analysis, control system, and other government reportorial requirements, with 5 + years experience in the same capacity gained in a manufacturing set -up
- Excellent written and verbal skills, strong interpersonal skills,
- Willing to be assigned in Mamplasan Laguna

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- Graduate of any business course from reputable school
- With 2 or more years experience in multi-color commercial print sales.
- An entrepreneurial spirit with five figure income expectations is highly desirable
- Must able to present well in business-to-business situations along with the prospecting and lead development skills.
- Candidates should have strong written and oral communication skills.
- Must be proactive individual.

ACCOUNTING ANALYST

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree or Professional License (Passed Board/Bar/Professional License Exam) in Finance/ Accountancy/Banking or equivalent.
- must be A Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Required skill(s): word, excel, power point.
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mamplasan Laguna (shuttle service available).
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Finance - General/Cost Accounting or equivalent.
- Full-Time positions available.

COST ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree or Professional License (Passed Board/Bar/ Professional License Exam) in Finance/Accountancy/ Banking or equivalent.
- Female
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Required skill(s): word, excel; power point.
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in a Manufacturing Firm is required for this position
- Applicants must be willing to work in Mamplasan Laguna (shuttle service available).
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably 2-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Cost Accounting
- Full-Time positions available.

FINANCE AND ADMIN SUPERVISOR

- Accounting graduate
- With good interpersonal relationship
- With good communication and written skills
- With strong customer service orientation, values driven, diligent worker and team leader

PROPERTY SUPERVISOR

- Commerce/Engineering graduate
- Computer literate
- With good communication skill
- At least 2 years experienced in the same capacity
- Must be keen on details, honest, patient and systematic

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Candidate must be a degree holder of any 4-year course from a reputable institution
- Preferably with 2 years minimum experience in Administrative or Secretarial Function
- High tolerance of stress
- Result-oriented, high level of creativity
- Excellent written and communication skills.
- With pleasing personality

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (Cebu)

- Between 23-30 years old
- Graduate of Mass Communication , Marketing or related courses
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- With 1-2 years experience in sales
- Independent and can work with minimal supervision
- Dynamic, go-getter, a good team player

FEP Printing Corporation
Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or Email aoasan@fep.ph/rbalingit@fep.ph

For CEBU/DAVAO applicants:

Please submit your application letter, comprehensive resume, recent photo and transcript of records to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
or e-mail your application to erosales@fep.ph

ICHiZEN
Japanese Food and Cafe

ICHIZEN JAPANESE FOOD AND CAFÉ, a dynamic company that is set to expand through franchising is in need of key personnel to fill the following positions:

- **Store Managers**
- **Operations Management Trainees**
- **Store Marketing Officers**
- **Accountant**
- **Administrative Assistants**
- **Service Crews**

IF YOU ARE:

- Male or Female
- 18 – 25 years old (for Service Crews);
  20 – 35 years old (for Admin. Positions)
- College level / graduate
- With dynamic and pleasing personality
- Dedicated to work on assigned task
- Experience in food business (for Admin. Positions)
- Computer literate (for Admin. Positions)

*** For Manila and SM Bacoor hiring

PLEASE ATTACH COPY OF RECENT MEDICAL EXAMS RESULTS

SUBMIT RESUMÉ
ON OR BEFORE MAY 30, 2004 TO:
THE HR DEPARTMENT
3/F CARUNCHO BLDG.,
#138 DR. SIXTO AVENUE,
PASIG CITY

Enjoy a LIGHT and FRIENDLY Work Atmosphere.

Where TEAMWORK is alive and goals are achieved TOGETHER.

Where spirits are high and REWARDS are FULFILLING.

Let VISION-X take you there!

Gear up for SUCCESS!.

A GOOD CAREER AND A FUN WORK PLACE.

You probably would ask how a company of our magnitude could find that perfect balance of two worlds. It's actually simple, but it's a company secret. Why don't you find out for yourself?

Want to earn as much as P50,000 a month?
Be one of our CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVES.

Other Career Opportunities:

Account Manager
Events Coordinator
Employee Relations Specialist
Trainers
U.S. Payroll Helpdesk
Recruitment Specialist

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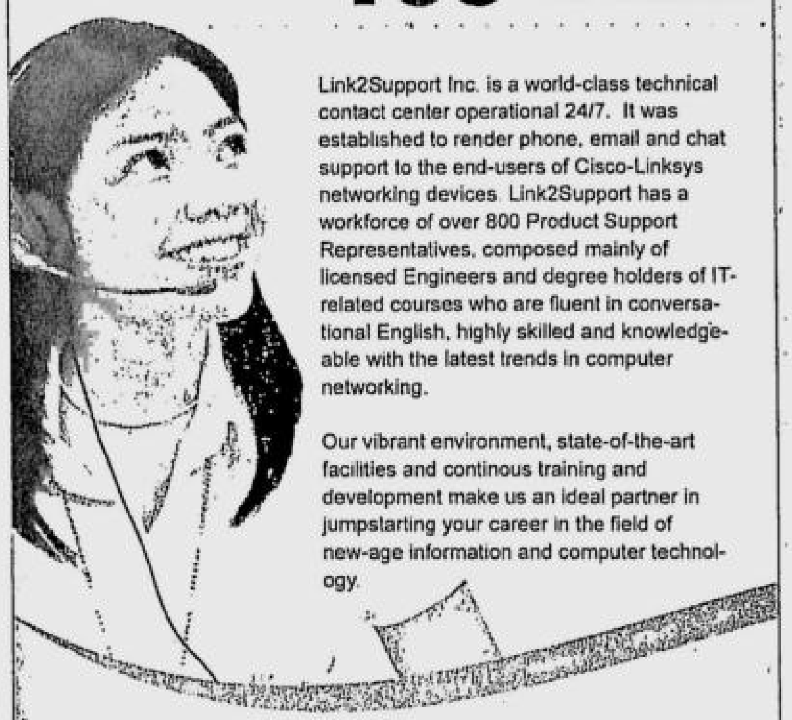
Ayala cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati
E-mail: careers@vxi.com.ph

Interviews from Mondays thru Fridays
8AM-1PM

WE'VE GOT YOU IN MIND



Link2Support Inc. is a world-class technical contact center operational 24/7. It was established to render phone, email and chat support to the end-users of Cisco-Linksys networking devices. Link2Support has a workforce of over 800 Product Support Representatives, composed mainly of licensed Engineers and degree holders of IT-related courses who are fluent in conversational English, highly skilled and knowledgeable with the latest trends in computer networking.

Our vibrant environment, state-of-the-art facilities and continous training and development make us an ideal partner in jumpstarting your career in the field of new-age information and computer technology.

We are in search of highly-motivated individuals who have excellent English communication skills and who are willing to work in shifting schedules for the following position:

PRODUCT SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Responsible for providing excellent technical support and customer service to customers all over the world.

- College graduates of any IT-related course, preferably ECE and CoE
- Familiar with computer networking concepts and PC Troubleshooting
- Call center experience will be an advantage

For an immediate interview, visit us from Monday to Friday 9 am-6 pm at: 5th Floor TechnoPlaza One Bdlg., Orchard Road, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City

Applicants may also send their resume to recruitment@link2support.com, or call us at 423-8700

Link2Support
www.link2support.com

Customer Care and Satisfaction... now we're talking.

A DYNAMIC AND PROGRESSIVE GROUP OF COMPANIES

is in need of the following:

CORPORATE LAWYER (Code: CL)

- Male, 35 years old and above
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- Must be computer literate

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URGENT RECRUITMENT

The PHI/01/007- Empowerment of Indigenous Peoples for Governance and Sustainable Development of Ancestral Domains (EIPSGAD) Project, a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) aiming to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples to development as recognized by both national and international laws, is in search of qualified individuals to work as **ANCESTRAL DOMAINS SPECIALIST (ADS)**. The Ancestral Domains Specialist will be responsible for the overall delivery, implementation and monitoring of the Component 1 of the said project.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the overall effective & efficient implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDAD component of the project.
2. Maintain functional and effective working relations with and among relevant offices within the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and promote the project to other partners and stakeholders towards forging genuine partnerships.
3. Ensure participation of the NCIP staff, indigenous peoples, and concerned partners in the planning and implementation of appropriate & relevant capacity building and other training activities relevant to the implementation of the SDAD component of the project.
4. Provide technical assistance in the planning, implementation and evaluation of training activities to equip indigenous peoples with proper skills to ensure their full participation in the delineation of their ancestral domains, and in the preparation and implementation of their Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plans (ADSDPPs).
5. Facilitate the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples Development Fund Facility mechanism, including guidelines for its implementation.
6. Facilitate a participatory community-based monitoring and evaluation system for the SDAD component of the project.
7. Convene regular meetings, workshops and other related activities aimed at strengthening working relationships among stakeholders and partnership with concerned government and non-government organizations.
8. Actively participate in regular project monitoring and review meetings of the Project Management Office (PMO), including provision of technical inputs and support for the effective delivery project activities.
9. Assist the Project Coordinator in the development and finalization of the Project Operations Manual.
10. Prepare and submit quarterly work and financial plans, quarterly accomplishment reports, annual progress reports and budget requirements specifically under the SDAD component.
11. Coordinate activities with the other components of the project, especially in the provision of inputs to the overall work and financial plan, accomplishment reports and budget requirements of the project.
12. Perform other related technical and administrative functions as may be assigned by the Project Coordinator.

Qualification requirements:

The above post will require a minimum of five (5) years proven experience in working with indigenous peoples, ancestral lands/domains issues, capacity building, community organizing, training, appraisal, evaluation, networking and resource mobilization. A post-graduate degree in the field of social sciences would be an advantage.

The post requires awareness and understanding of indigenous peoples development issues and concerns. He/She must be knowledgeable of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 and other documents promoting the rights of indigenous peoples. The posts require cultural sensitivity and willingness to travel to hinterland indigenous peoples communities/areas.

Applicants must be proficient in written and spoken English. Qualified members of an indigenous cultural community are highly encouraged to apply.

Duration of contracts:
Initial employment for the above post will be for six (6) months, with possibility of extension based on satisfactory performance.

Professional fees:
The post will be paid a monthly salary of Php30,000.

All application letters and comprehensive resumés should reach our office on or before 10 May 2004. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 108 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or PO Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), Tel. Nos. (632) 892-4528/892-0611 to 25, Fax Nos. (632) 8160461; 893-9598; E-mail address:bc_admin.ph@undp.org

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Qualified candidates should send their resumé, transcript of records and a 2" x 2" photo by Friday, May 07, 2004 to

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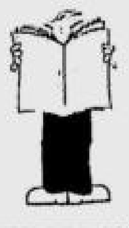

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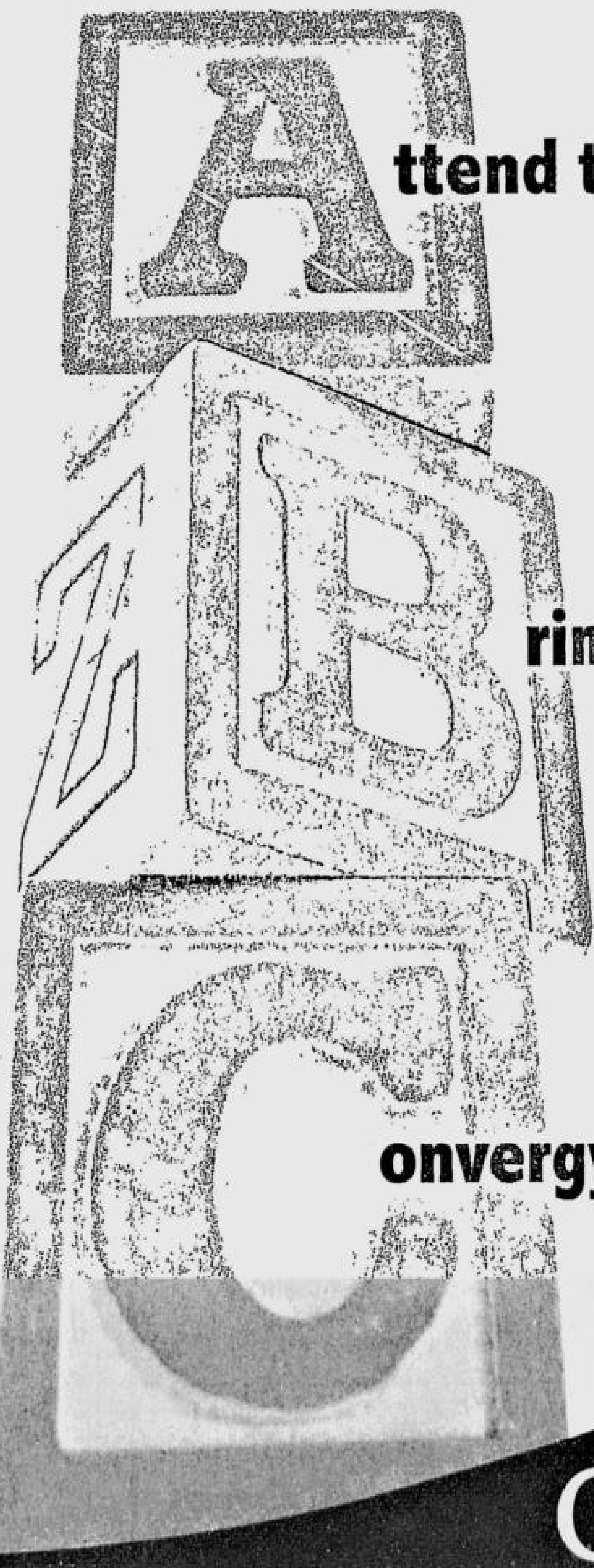

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GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
May 2, 2004

Considered one of the most successful and influential Filipino designers of his generation, Inno Sotto reflects on fame and fortune—and the flak that comes with it

Ingeniously Inno

By Kit Arines
Photographs by August dela Cruz

IN the realm of Philippine fashion design, the name Inno Sotto is synonymous with elegance, sophistication, and unwavering panache. Arguably the most successful and influential Filipino designer of his generation, he has been known to perpetually reinvent himself and his creations.

Adulation is nothing new to Sotto whose flourishing career spans more than two decades. "Fame cannot sustain a career," he muses. "It's how you deliver and how you endure in the field. As with any other individuals in the industry, I was once a promising designer. It's either you meet the promise, exceed it, or break it. I have programmed my career in such a way that I am able to please myself and be true to myself. If I were obsessed with pleasing other people, I would be sidetracked and have nothing to be genuinely proud of."

To page 2

Sure Shot
by Lorenzo Z. Manguiat, *p.4*

Caloy Comes Home
by Agnes Prieto, *p.4*

An Architect of Prayer Places
by Maria Socorro G. Naguit, *p.5*

Inno

...from page 1

Born in Manila to Redentor and Lily Sotto, Inno was the third of eight children. His father was an airline executive who passed away two years ago. Lily, now 83, is based in Las Vegas and is fondly remembered as an ever watchful mom to children Rene, Noel, Maria Elena, twins Socorro and Pilar, Cornelia, and Cynthia, all of whom are now based either in the US or Europe.

Although he spent most of his grade school years at the Ateneo de Manila, Inno eventually stayed with his grandmother Cornelia Pascual and godmother Aurora Pascual in Guam, Hawaii, and other parts of America. Anointed with the monicker "Guam boy" by his siblings, Inno recounts, "My grandmother had a business in Guam so she sort of 'borrowed' me from my parents. By nature, I am not a groupie type of person. I'm used to being alone so it didn't really affect me that I was away from my family. When I came back to the Philippines, I had no problem getting close to them, especially my sisters."

Going by instinct: "I can face anyone head on"

After his high school years at De La Salle Taft, Inno was inclined to take up Humanities for college when he crossed paths with prominent designer Christian Espiritu. "My mother loved fashion and went to designers. She would go to Rudy Dandan, Casimiro Abad, Nena Lapus and Christian Espiritu. During one of her visits to Christian, he happened to mention to my sister that he was looking for an assistant designer, someone to illustrate his designs. My sister told Christian that I could draw, having gone to art school when I was young. So I came in without any idea of what the business was about or how to do it. All I knew was how to draw."

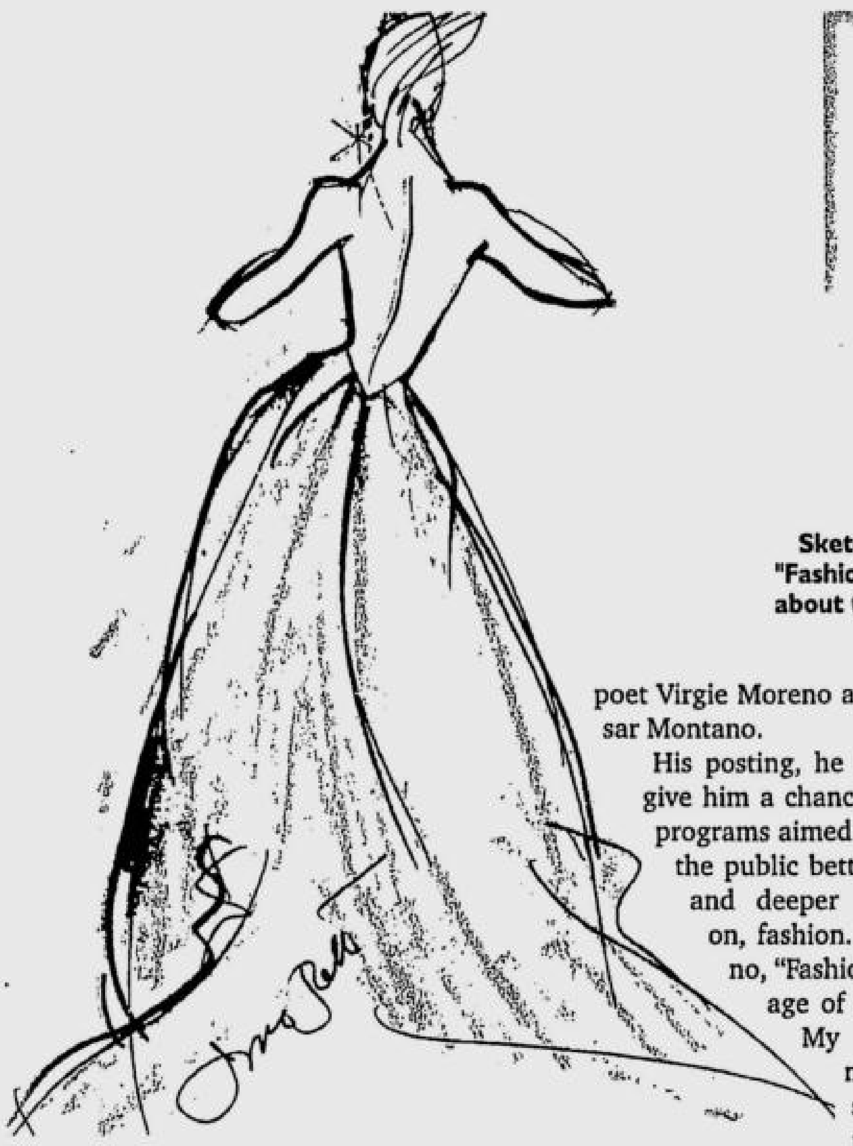
An eye for design

Inno soon found himself in the designer's backroom for the next 15 months, observing how Espiritu cut, draped, and designed. "This was when I realized that design was what I wanted to get myself into."

He left Manila to enroll at the School of Fashion Design in San Francisco, later moving on to study at the prestigious Parsons School of Fashion Design in New York. After finishing his formal education, Sotto began commuting between Manila and the US, creating a few pieces for his clients along the way. Soon, word got around and demand for Inno's designs grew. He decided to call Manila home and set shop, with only three machines and six staff members.

Ironically, he recounts, just as he was settling in, his family was moving out to migrate to the US. "It was really just a matter of time anyway. We all knew they were going to leave," says Inno. The distance never affected the relationship as the family regularly keep in touch with one another. "We're a touchy-feely family, very *malambing* like the typical Filipino family."

Recognition soon came in the form of several significant design awards, among them the Saga Mink Competition USA grand prize, the Young Fashion Designers Competition in America, the grand prize in Fashion Fiesta Manila, and the Outstanding Filipino Designer award. Business kept getting better. Aside from his made-to-measure business, Inno also launched Luxe Wear - Numerals, a high-end ready-to-wear line, which was similarly launched in Singapore and Japan. Along with other contemporary designers, Inno founded the Filipino Designer's Group and was its president a year after it was formed.



Sketch by Sotto: "Fashion is not just about the present"

The mid '90s were particularly good, he recalls. "One of my career highs was when fashion arbiter Elsa Klensch flew to Manila to do a feature story on me," says Inno. "It was one of those defining moments when I felt humbled knowing that my fashion was worthy enough to be covered and made known to the world." Another highlight was when fashion columnist Suzy Menkes saw Inno's collection in Singapore and gave it a favorable review. "For international key figures and respected names in fashion to give you that kind of attention is overwhelming. My show in Paris, when I got a standing ovation, was another high moment. These are moments I will always remember. I'm fortunate to have met so many kind people who opened doors for me. I had so many good breaks that things were literally landing on my lap."

Harnessing local talent

But more than just reaping individual recognition, Inno has also harnessed local talent and creativity, as he established several avenues to showcase the works of other young designer. Such was the case in Fashion Watch and the Asean Design Show. "When these projects were conceptualized, we wanted the entire world to know that there is so much more to the Philippines than the negative news that they hear," says Inno. "We wanted to present a more positive and better image of the country by showcasing our creativity. We invited designers from all over Asia to establish Manila as a design area that the international press can take note of. When they made special episodes on Philippine interiors, arts and crafts, jewelry and tourism and aired that for the world to see, it was very good exposure."

Inno also taught Fashion Design and Merchandising at the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. Exposed to passionate and enthusiastic youngsters, he found the need for a series of retrospectives to narrate the fashion trends from years back. He notes, "Fashion is not just about the present. I've realized that the young can learn about the achievements of Filipino designers and their level of sensibilities and sophistication by showcasing their works. When I staged 'Two Decades of Modern Philippine Couture,' I saw 20 years of work standing before me. It's nice to see how our designers have evolved."

His cultural and social contributions have given Inno enough stature to be recently named a Unesco Commissioner for Culture, the only one in the field of fashion. He joins other Unesco commissioners Menchu Padilla from the Foreign Affairs' department, ballerina Lisa Macuja, sculptor Napoleon Abueva, educators Professor Abraham and Preciosa Soliven, presidential stylist Joanne Zapanta, actor Leo Martinez, poet Virgie Moreno and actor Cesar Montano.

His posting, he says, should give him a chance to develop programs aimed at providing the public better access to, and deeper involvement on, fashion. Explains Inno, "Fashion has an image of being elitist. My goal is to make it accessible in a manner that is not restricted to heavy fashion or design alone. The goal is to make apparel move forward while still reflecting the culture of its origin. We also want to involve various communities and regions in the fashion scene, whether it be in weaving fabrics, design and use of materials in accessories, or the creation of patterns."

Big news

His appointment as Unesco Commissioner is probably the biggest news on Inno in two years, after keeping a low profile for two years. The silence was not deliberate, he says. "I was supposed to have a show last year, but I decided to do it in October this year instead. I follow my instincts. I look for the right moment." A supposed rivalry with a younger designer, as some quarters alleged, wasn't the reason at all. "People were saying that I didn't want to have a show at the same time another designer would be having his," he says. But, he clarifies, "Rivalry exists in the minds of other people, but I am so confident and sure of myself that I don't need that kind of competition. I can face anyone head on, then just pass it on to the wind.

"I have no insecurities towards other designers, and I'm sure designers like Auggie Cordero and the late Joe Salazar did not have insecurities towards me, either. As for some younger designers, there's a possibility that they're insecure about me, but I am not the yardstick with which they should gauge their success. Everyone should have his own yardstick and use that to measure the level of success they want to achieve," he declares.

But controversy and celebrity seem to be inexorably linked. Which might explain Inno's being constantly linked with popular actors and basketball stars. Laughs this designer, "I dressed Piolo Pascual up for his concert,just as I dress up Aga Muhlach, Martin Nievera and other popular actors. There's nothing but friendship between us."

As for those basketball hotshots, he chuckles, "I'm a naturally competitive person so I enjoy competitive sports. I'm a fan, and that's it. No hidden agenda." Not that it hurts that they're good-looking as well, Inno laughs. "That's nice, too, but seriously, these basketball stars have the height and the looks that are ideal for models. It's ridiculous to think of anything beyond that."

He's busy enough as it is to pay attention to gossip, he adds. There's a major fashion show in October to showcase some 50 to 60 of his finest designs. On May 6, he will be staging a Pond's Woman-inspired show at The Peninsula Manila. The 25-piece collection that, incidentally, will be showing a lot of skin, excites him, says Inno, "because I'll be working with a couple of new faces. It's an entirely new generation, and I like that."

Life has been good and gets better, says Inno who adds that more than just luck and good breaks, choice has been a factor in his continuing success. "We create our own destiny. Everyday, we make choices, and we can either benefit or suffer from them. I choose to simply go on and do things that I feel are right for me. And I am happy with my choices." Q

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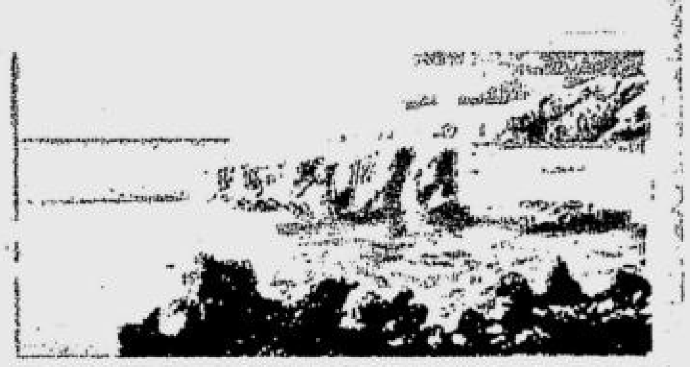

BATANES PEOPLE IN ART Michael Blanco presents his Ivatan-inspired paintings depicting the unique and simple way of life of these people from Batanes. The exhibit "Ivatans, People of the North" is on view at the CCP Pasilyo Vicente Manansala until May 30. Shown in photo is "Tide Rising at Basco," oil on canvas. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Ayaw sagutin ni W. ang kanyang celfone

Siempre pa, para kay W.

Nais kong manahan sa iyong katahimikan.

Magbaon, halimbawa, ng unan at kumot
at gigiling-giling sa sarap ng lahat

mong isip at ibig. Sisigaw, sasayaw—
labi, kamay, baywang, dila. Lulusubin

ang bawat sulok ng mapagkubli
na katahimikan. Bibigyan ito ng hugis,

anyo, kulay, bigat, lasa, bango—
kabuuan at kakulangan. Katiyakan:

pagpisa ng patak ng pawis sa pisngi mo.
Pagpipistahan ko ang alat at alaala

na magbibigay-buhay sa iyo ngayon,
dito, habang ikaw ay wala, pipi at bingi

sa tawag ng minsanang pagkakataon.

Mozart A.T. Pastrano

Quatrains for Kit

there are no shadows when it comes to you—
only nightscapes. or should I say: it is night in that part
of the world where your shadow falls obliquely like a shroud,
your shadow whose weight is the absence of thought,

all thoughtlessness and wingflutter, whose surface
is smoother than the edges of night, each finger a wingless
butterfly sharper than shoulder blades where caterpillars
blossom into song. your shadow whose forehead

is the biblical wilderness the messiah prayed in
for forty days and forty nights, adorned with thickets
and traitors, deer and despair. whose mouth dismantles
planetary systems and detonates stellar clusters,

whose breath is submerged in ethereal moonlight,
whose breath is moonlight, whose face is moon with lips
of moonrock. night falls when you close your eyes,
my love, and nothing stirs except my heart.

Angelo V. Suárez

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Inno

...from page 1

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After his high school years at De La Salle Taft, Inno was inclined to take up Humanities for college when he crossed paths with prominent designer Christian Espiritu. "My mother loved fashion and went to designers. She would go to Rudy Dandan, Casimiro Abad, Nena Lapus and Christian Espiritu. During one of her visits to Christian, he happened to mention to my sister that he was looking for an assistant designer, someone to illustrate his designs. My sister told Christian that I could draw, having gone to art school when I was young. So I came in without any idea of what the business was about or how to do it. All I knew was how to draw."

An eye for design

Inno soon found himself in the designer's backroom for the next 15 months, observing how Espiritu cut, draped, and designed. "This was when I realized that design was what I wanted to get myself into."

He left Manila to enroll at the School of Fashion Design in San Francisco, later moving on to study at the prestigious Parsons School of Fashion Design in New York. After finishing his formal education, Sotto began commuting between Manila and the US, creating a few pieces for his clients along the way. Soon, word got around and demand for Inno's designs grew. He decided to call Manila home and set shop, with only three machines and six staff members.

Ironically, he recounts, just as he was settling in, his family was moving out to migrate to the US. "It was really just a matter of time anyway. We all knew they were going to leave," says Inno. The distance never affected the relationship as the family regularly keep in touch with one another. "We're a touchy-feely family, very *malambing* like the typical Filipino family."

Recognition soon came in the form of several significant design awards, among them the Saga Mink Competition USA grand prize, the Young Fashion Designers Competition in America, the grand prize in Fashion Fiesta Manila, and the Outstanding Filipino Designer award. Business kept getting better. Aside from his made-to-measure business, Inno also launched Luxe Wear - Numerals, a high-end ready-to-wear line, which was similarly launched in Singapore and Japan. Along with other contemporary designers, Inno founded the Filipino Designer's Group and was its president a year after it was formed.

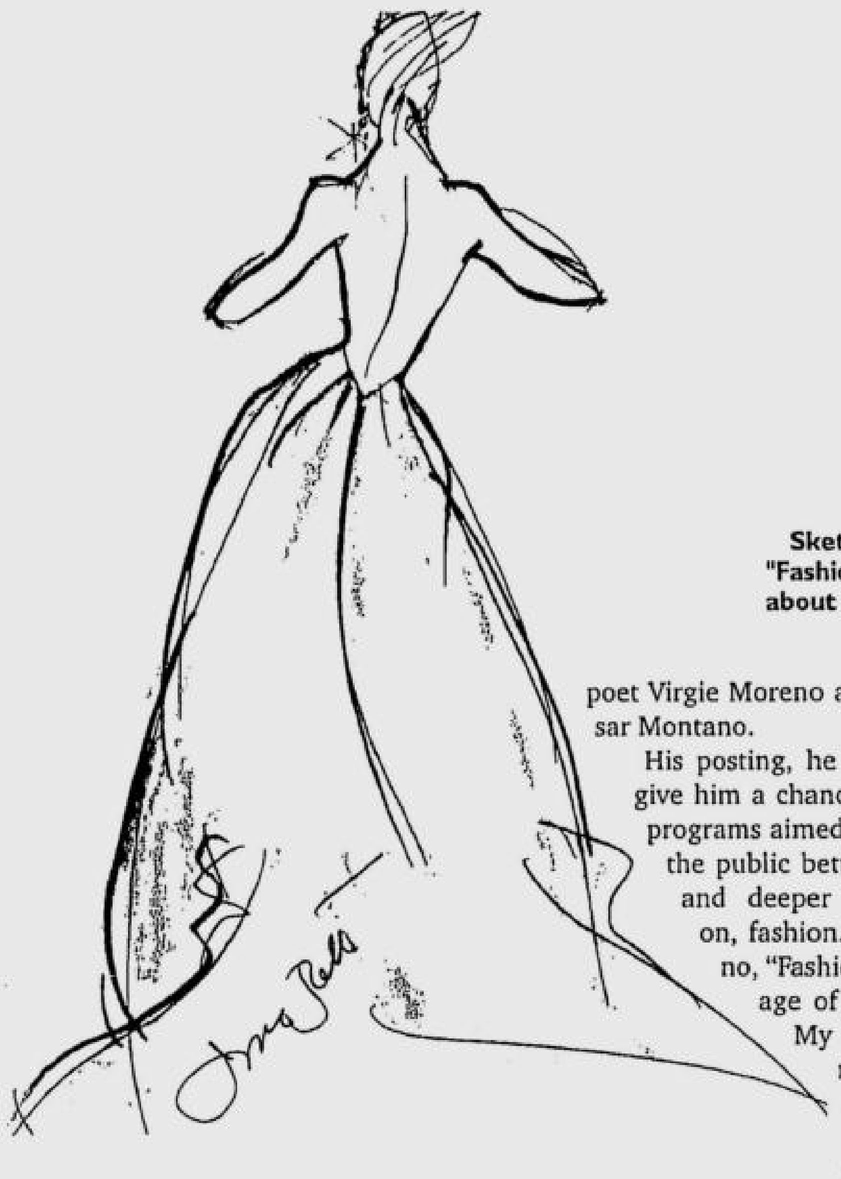
The mid '90s were particularly good, he recalls. "One of my career highs was when fashion arbiter Elsa Klensch flew to Manila to do a feature story on me," says Inno. "It was one of those defining moments when I felt humbled knowing that my fashion was worthy enough to be covered and made known to the world." Another highlight was when fashion columnist Suzy Menkes saw Inno's collection in Singapore and gave it a favorable review. "For international key figures and respected names in fashion to give you that kind of attention is overwhelming. My show in Paris, when I got a standing ovation, was another high moment. These are moments I will always remember. I'm fortunate to have met so many kind people who opened doors for me. I had so many good breaks that things were literally landing on my lap."

Harnessing local talent

But more than just reaping individual recognition, Inno has also harnessed local talent and creativity, as he established several avenues to showcase the works of other young designer. Such was the case in Fashion Watch and the Asean Design Show. "When these projects were conceptualized, we wanted the entire world to know that there is so much more to the Philippines than the negative news that they hear," says Inno. "We wanted to present a more positive and better image of the country by showcasing our creativity. We invited designers from all over Asia to establish Manila as a design area that the international press can take note of. When they made special episodes on Philippine interiors, arts and crafts, jewelry and tourism and aired that for the world to see, it was very good exposure."

Inno also taught Fashion Design and Merchandising at the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. Exposed to passionate and enthusiastic youngsters, he found the need for a series of retrospectives to narrate the fashion trends from years back. He notes, "Fashion is not just about the present. I've realized that the young can learn about the achievements of Filipino designers and their level of sensibilities and sophistication by showcasing their works. When I staged 'Two Decades of Modern Philippine Couture,' I saw 20 years of work standing before me. It's nice to see how our designers have evolved."

His cultural and social contributions have given Inno enough stature to be recently named a Unesco Commissioner for Culture, the only one in the field of fashion. He joins other Unesco commissioners Menchu Padilla from the Foreign Affairs' department, ballerina Lisa Macuja, sculptor Napoleon Abueva, educators Professor Abraham and Preciosa Soliven, presidential stylist Joanne Zapanta, actor Leo Martinez, poet Virgie Moreno and actor Cesar Montano.



Sketch by Sotto: "Fashion is not just about the present"

His posting, he says, should give him a chance to develop programs aimed at providing the public better access to, and deeper involvement on, fashion. Explains Inno, "Fashion has an image of being elitist. My goal is to make it accessible in a manner that is not restricted to heavy fashion or design alone. The goal is to make apparel move forward while still reflecting the culture of its origin. We also want to involve various communities and regions in the fashion scene, whether it be in weaving fabrics, design and use of materials in accessories, or the creation of patterns. "

Big news

His appointment as Unesco Commissioner is probably the biggest news on Inno in two years, after keeping a low profile for two years. The silence was not deliberate, he says. "I was supposed to have a show last year, but I decided to do it in October this year instead. I follow my instincts. I look for the right moment." A supposed rivalry with a younger designer, as some quarters alleged, wasn't the reason at all. "People were saying that I didn't want to have a show at the same time another designer would be having his," he says. But, he clarifies, "Rivalry exists in the minds of other people, but I am so confident and sure of myself that I don't need that kind of competition. I can face anyone head on, then just pass it on to the wind.

"I have no insecurities towards other designers, and I'm sure designers like Auggie Cordero and the late Joe Salazar did not have insecurities towards me, either. As for some younger designers, there's a possibility that they're insecure about me, but I am not the yardstick with which they should gauge their success. Everyone should have his own yardstick and use that to measure the level of success they want to achieve," he declares.

But controversy and celebrity seem to be inexorably linked. Which might explain Inno's being constantly linked with popular actors and basketball stars. Laughs this designer, "I dressed Piolo Pascual up for his concert,just as I dress up Aga Muhlach, Martin Nievera and other popular actors. There's nothing but friendship between us."

As for those basketball hotshots, he chuckles, "I'm a naturally competitive person so I enjoy competitive sports. I'm a fan, and that's it. No hidden agenda." Not that it hurts that they're good-looking as well, Inno laughs. "That's nice, too, but seriously, these basketball stars have the height and the looks that are ideal for models. It's ridiculous to think of anything beyond that."

He's busy enough as it is to pay attention to gossip, he adds. There's a major fashion show in October to showcase some 50 to 60 of his finest designs. On May 6, he will be staging a Pond's Woman-inspired show at The Peninsula Manila. The 25-piece collection that, incidentally, will be showing a lot of skin, excites him, says Inno, "because I'll be working with a couple of new faces. It's an entirely new generation, and I like that."

Life has been good and gets better, says Inno who adds that more than just luck and good breaks, choice has been a factor in his continuing success. "We create our own destiny. Everyday, we make choices, and we can either benefit or suffer from them. I choose to simply go on and do things that I feel are right for me. And I am happy with my choices."

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BATANES PEOPLE IN ART Michael Blanco presents his Ivatan-inspired paintings depicting the unique and simple way of life of these people from Batanes. The exhibit "Ivatans, People of the North" is on view at the CCP Pasilyo Vicente Manansala until May 30. Shown in photo is "Tide Rising at Basco," oil on canvas. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Ayaw sagutin ni W. ang kanyang celfone

Siempre pa, para kay W.

Nais kong manahan sa iyong katahimikan.

Magbaon, halimbawa, ng unan at kumot
at gigiling-giling sa sarap ng lahat

mong isip at ibig. Sisigaw, sasayaw—
labi, kamay, baywang, dila. Lulusubin

ang bawat sulok ng mapagkubli
na katahimikan. Bibigyan ito ng hugis,

anyo, kulay, bigat, lasa, bango—
kabuuan at kakulangan. Katiyakan:

pagpisa ng patak ng pawis sa pisngi mo.
Pagpipistahan ko ang alat at alaala

na magbibigay-buhay sa iyo ngayon,
dito, habang ikaw ay wala, pipi at bingi

sa tawag ng minsanang pagkakataon.

Mozart A.T. Pastrano

Quatrains for Kit

there are no shadows when it comes to you—
only nightscapes. or should I say: it is night in that part
of the world where your shadow falls obliquely like a shroud,
your shadow whose weight is the absence of thought,

all thoughtlessness and wingflutter, whose surface
is smoother than the edges of night, each finger a wingless
butterfly sharper than shoulder blades where caterpillars
blossom into song. your shadow whose forehead

is the biblical wilderness the messiah prayed in
for forty days and forty nights, adorned with thickets
and traitors, deer and despair. whose mouth dismantles
planetary systems and detonates stellar clusters,

whose breath is submerged in ethereal moonlight,
whose breath is moonlight, whose face is moon with lips
of moonrock. night falls when you close your eyes,
my love, and nothing stirs except my heart.

Angelo V. Suárez

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

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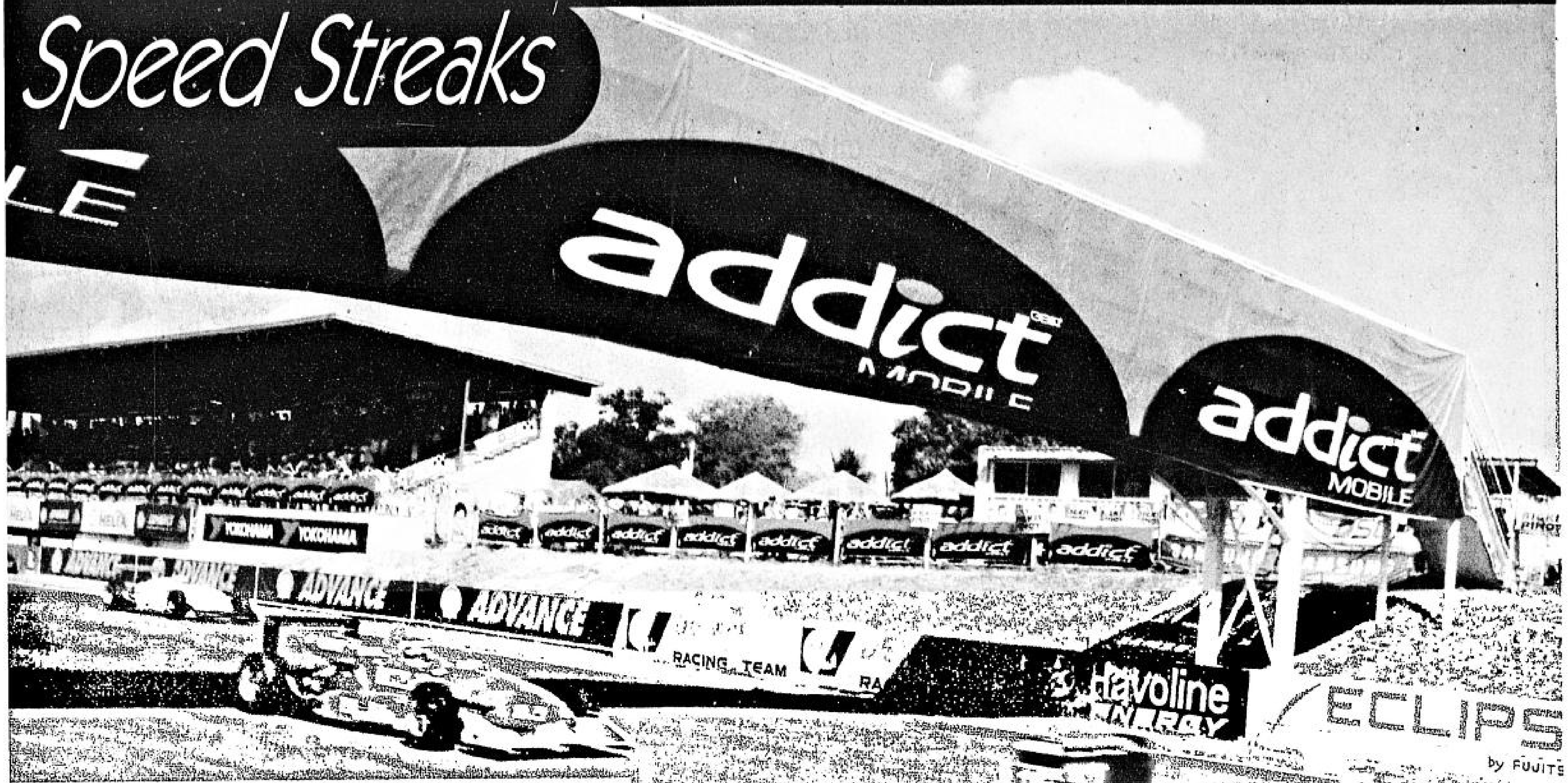
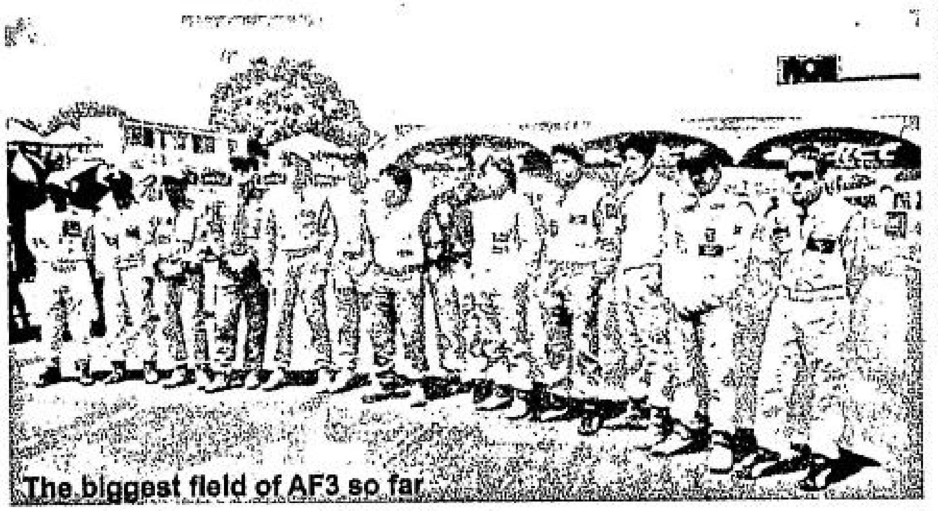
Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 Series

Speed Streaks




The biggest field of AF3 so far

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The battle lines have been drawn on the track at the inaugural race of the 2004 Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 Series. Formula 3 is only second internationally to Formula 1. Last year's Asian Formula 3 and Australian Formula 3 champ Christian Jones wants to dominate the podium again, while seasoned vet and perennial contender Brit Mark Goddard is back to jostle for position. Newcomer Irishman John O'Hara was topping practice runs all week. The newer, more rigid chassis class of the International class also had local favorites Jojo Silverio, Enzo Pastor, Pepon Marave, and Richard Joson in their ranks.

The pre-1998 chassis of the Promotion class roster also showed a lot of talent. Veteran Rolland Hermoso brought his years of experience into the class, but this weekend was the tale of 16 year old Tyson Sy.

"If anyone from the Philippines will be entering Formula 1, it is Tyson Sy," said veteran Mark Goddard. "The new drivers today are getting the opportunities that Rolland (Joson) or Pepon (Marave) didn't get when they were younger with Asian Formula 3. You are seeing the Formula 1 drivers of tomorrow racing here today."

The race was a show of grit and determination upon the Philippines premiere speedway and racing event that was the Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 circuit. Race #1 saw John O'Hara take the lead, but the adrenaline of seeing no one in front of him pushed him too hard, causing him to spin out. He recovered, but last year's champ Jones seized didn't let the opportunity pass him up. He took the lead, and didn't look back to take #1 overall and the International class in Race 1 and 2. Everyone's eyes were watching out for Tyson Sy, to see if raw skill and the power of his machine can make up for the fact that he is an AF3 rookie in his first race. Tyson Sy led the Promotional class pack in race 2, but his eagerness also caused him to spin out. Unlike O'Hara, Sy was able to regain his lost ground, eventually taking the Promotional class crown for race 1 and 2.

Addict Mobile is proud to be the major sponsor of Asian Formula 3 for the second straight year. Addict Mobile knows the importance of sport and sport development for our country, as it brings the country's and the world's eyes to our local destinations and focuses on our local talent. Of course, only Addict Mobile can fuel your addictions to speed and the world of motorsport, whether it be Asian Formula 3 or Formula 1. The passion for fast traction is what drives us at Addict Mobile.

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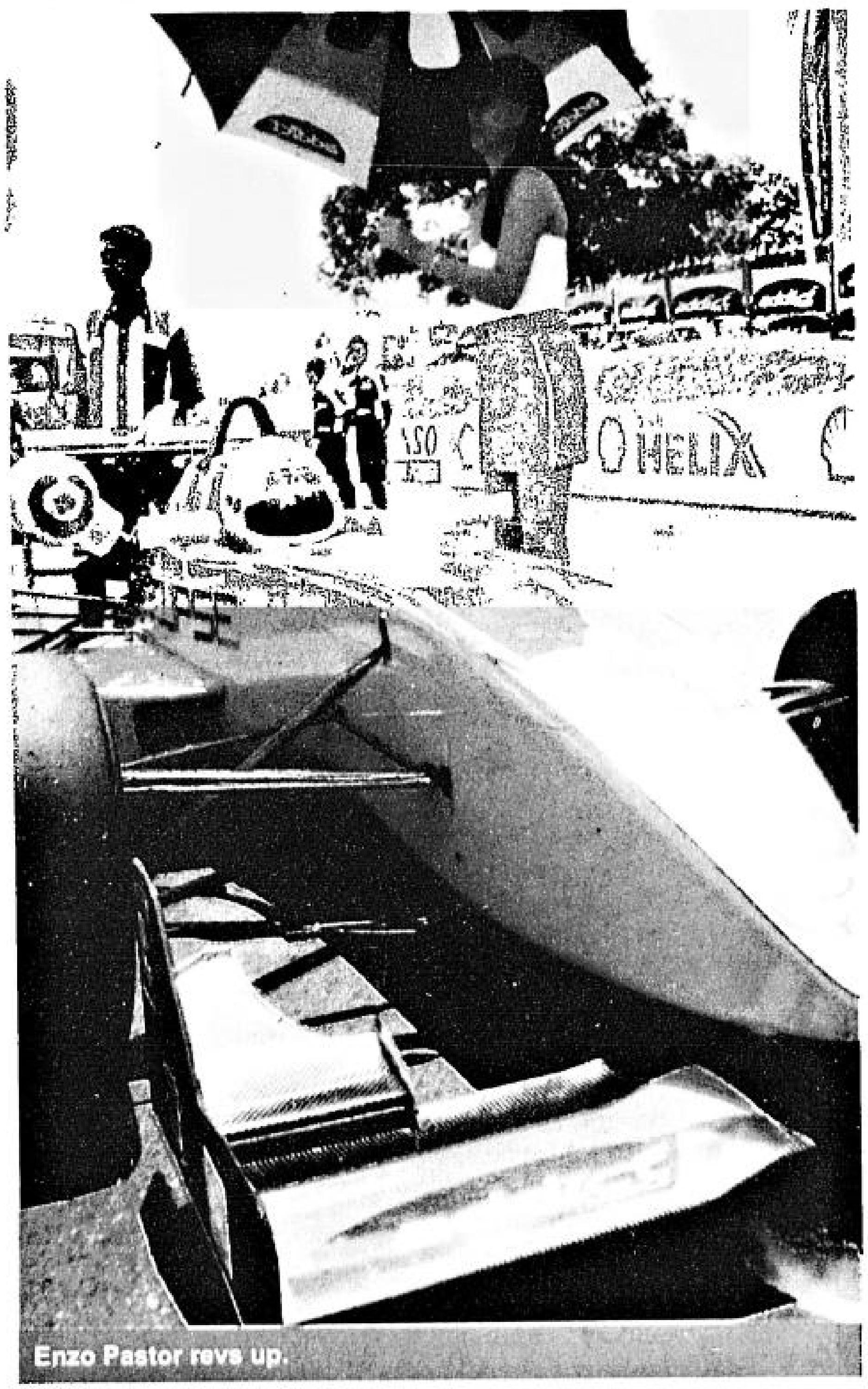
John O'Hara, Christian Jones and Mark Goddard at the winners podium for the International Class.

Christian Jones' cup winning car

Roland Hermoso, Tyson Sy, and Kenkou Miura place for the Promotional Class



Enzo Pastor revs up.

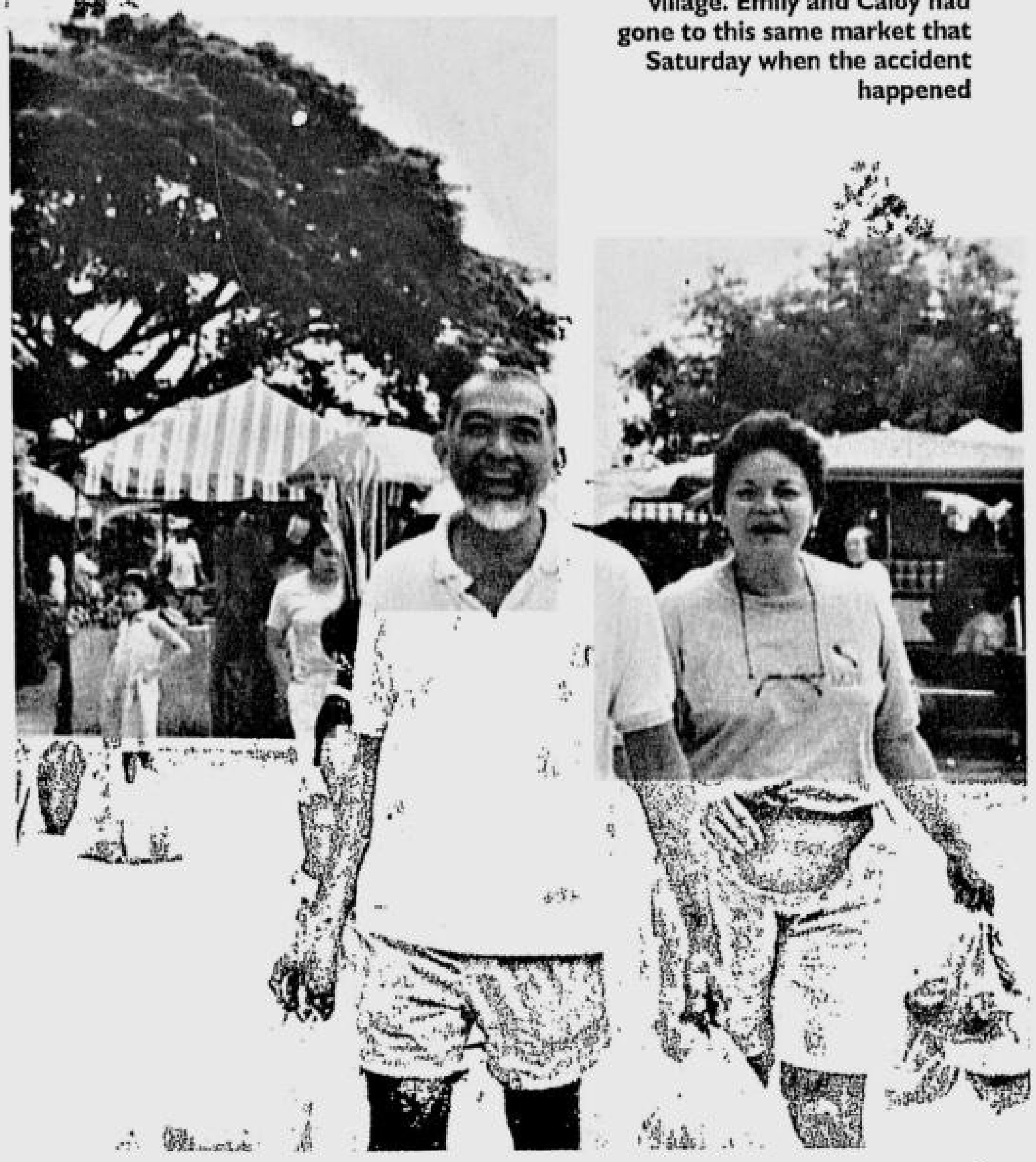
PAID ADVERTISEMENT

In Memoriam

By Agnes Prieto

Caloy Comes Home

Emily and Caloy Abrera, arms full of flowers—that is how people in this Parañaque community remember the couple. Now Caloy is gone, in a brutal and senseless death so alien to the gentle spirit that he was



The Abreras at the weekend market that was later moved to FTI, right behind the couple's village. Emily and Caloy had gone to this same market that Saturday when the accident happened

It was still Easter week when Caloy died. Carlos Abrera, from down Narra Street, whose family has lived in this small Parañaque community for a long time. Emily and Caloy moved into the village and rebuilt the old family home, putting together old wood and various found treasures into a lovely home full of warmth and light. Paolo, their son, built his own home beside his parents'.

Emily and Caloy. Caloy and Emily—they were a familiar sight, walking in the early mornings, their arms full of flowers from friendly bushes of sampaguita and santan and fallen fruit from mango trees around the village streets. The babies out for their morning walk know them, as do some joggers and street habitues. On weekends, the couple was part of the scene at the Weekend Organic Market, Caloy carrying Emily's baskets and plants.

That Saturday morning, I saw Caloy at the market but his back was turned and I was in a rush so I did not say "Hi." Shortly after noon, another neighbor rushed in distraught, saying Caloy was dead, hit "by a plane." Eventually, we would find out it was a train, but in the panic and anguish that ensued at first shot of pain, such questions of logic were easily put aside.

State of anxiety

We rushed out...but where? To the church? To their house? Another neighbor whom we don't even know, seeing us in that state of anxiety, volunteered, "He's still at Naty's garden." We rushed there. Already there were tens of friends and neighbors, all in tears, in shock. Emily sat in the garden hut, composed. When we came in, she waved towards where Caloy was, but said, "I would rather remember him *guapo* (looking good)." We agreed and sat with her as authorities and functionaries perform the necessary procedures in such accidents.

Caloy had apparently gone into the garden shop as he was wont to. Naty's is in a row of similar gardens that are literally hugging the railway. The sound of the train is familiar in these parts; it is part of people's lives, especially for those who live practically on the tracks. There are many reports and stories about how the fatal accident happened; some say that the train engineers tooted their horns in warning many times over but perhaps the drone of a plane overhead (the airport is nearby) drowned it out. No one will ever really know. What is clear is that Caloy was hit by a train and dragged to his death.

Gentle spirit

Mystical writer Carlos Castañeda speaks of how brave warriors, men who have lived their lives valiantly, are allowed a moment of vision, a recognition of death and an acknowledgment of the life that was moments before they die. Surely Caloy had this moment. He died in a brutal and senseless mangling, so totally opposed to the gentle spirit that he was.

The coroners came. Official photographs were taken behind discreetly drawn, hastily set up curtains amidst

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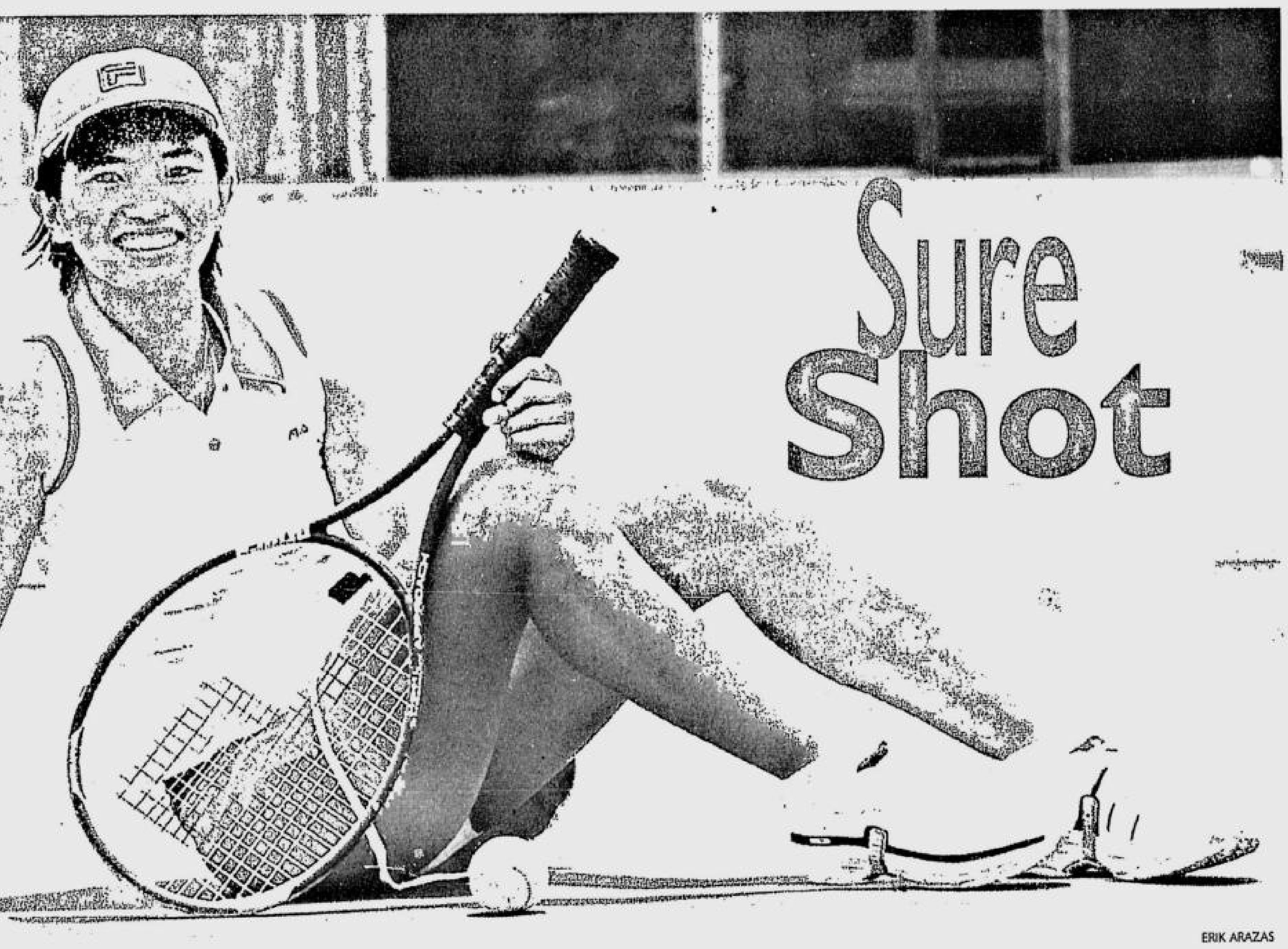
All in the Game

By Lorenzo Z. Manjuat

Sure Shot

At 24, national tennis player Tracy Santos is surpassing the expectations she has set for herself



ERIK ARAZAS

When you're named after someone famous, comparisons to your namesake are inevitable.

Nicknamed Tracy after tennis player Tracy Austin, Anna Patricia Santos seemed predestined to pick up a racket and follow in the footsteps of her dad's favorite athlete.

Yet, as this tennis player explains, it was really her choice. "No one forced me," she says. "I'm enjoying myself and I don't mind getting dark from all that sun exposure."

But while Austin, who won a professional tournament at 14 and claimed the US Open women's singles title at 16, ended her career at 21, Santos is a late-bloomer. Her promising career is just starting to take off at the advanced age of 24.

Currently the second ranked female tennis player in the country, Santos is having the time of her life, discovering the joy of the sport and loving every minute on the court. She talks about tennis with the giddiness of an adolescent girl infatuated with a member of a boy band.

So taken is she with the sport that she practices from 8 to 11 in the morning and again from 3 to 6 in the afternoon, five days a week, under the scorching sun.

Practice has become more intense these days for this University of the Philippines graduate as she recently represented the country in the Federation Cup in India and is preparing to compete in qualifying tournaments in Switzerland on her own.

Santos is used to this by now, but she can't help grinning when she remembers her first Fed Cup experience in China in 2001. "I was shocked. I was playing in the very first match against Japan's Akiko Morigami (currently ranked 54th in the world). I was so scared I just wanted to stay on the court for at least an hour," she says.

With her coach Martin Misa telling her to stay calm and enjoy herself, Santos, then 21, did not reach her minimum time limit; she surpassed it.

Playing with nothing to lose, the virtual unknown was able to break Morigami's serve in the first set with the score tied at 4-4. Making the most of her rare opportunity, the Filipina closed out the set, 6-4.

"Morigami was throwing tantrums. Her shots were flat and straight so they were easy to return," Santos recalls in Filipino.

But her opponent's experience proved too much for Santos as Morigami took the next two sets to win the match in nearly two hours.

Becoming a national tennis player was farthest from Santos' mind. Though she has been playing tennis since she was 12, it was purely recreational. She joined tournaments only during summer so she could prioritize school. It was late in her college years when she tried out for the Philippine team and made the cut in 2001.

When she's not wielding a racket, Santos enjoys watching television and dining out. She is also thinking of studying in the US to become a special education teacher. But right now, it's tennis all the time for her. "I'm making up for lost time," claims this sister of acoustic singer Paolo (yes, *that* Paolo Santos).

Currently competing for the number one ranking with teammate and current top player Czarina Arevalo, Santos has captured her fair share of local tournaments. Yet she considers the women's doubles bronze she won with Arevalo in last year's Vietnam SEA Games as the highlight of her career.

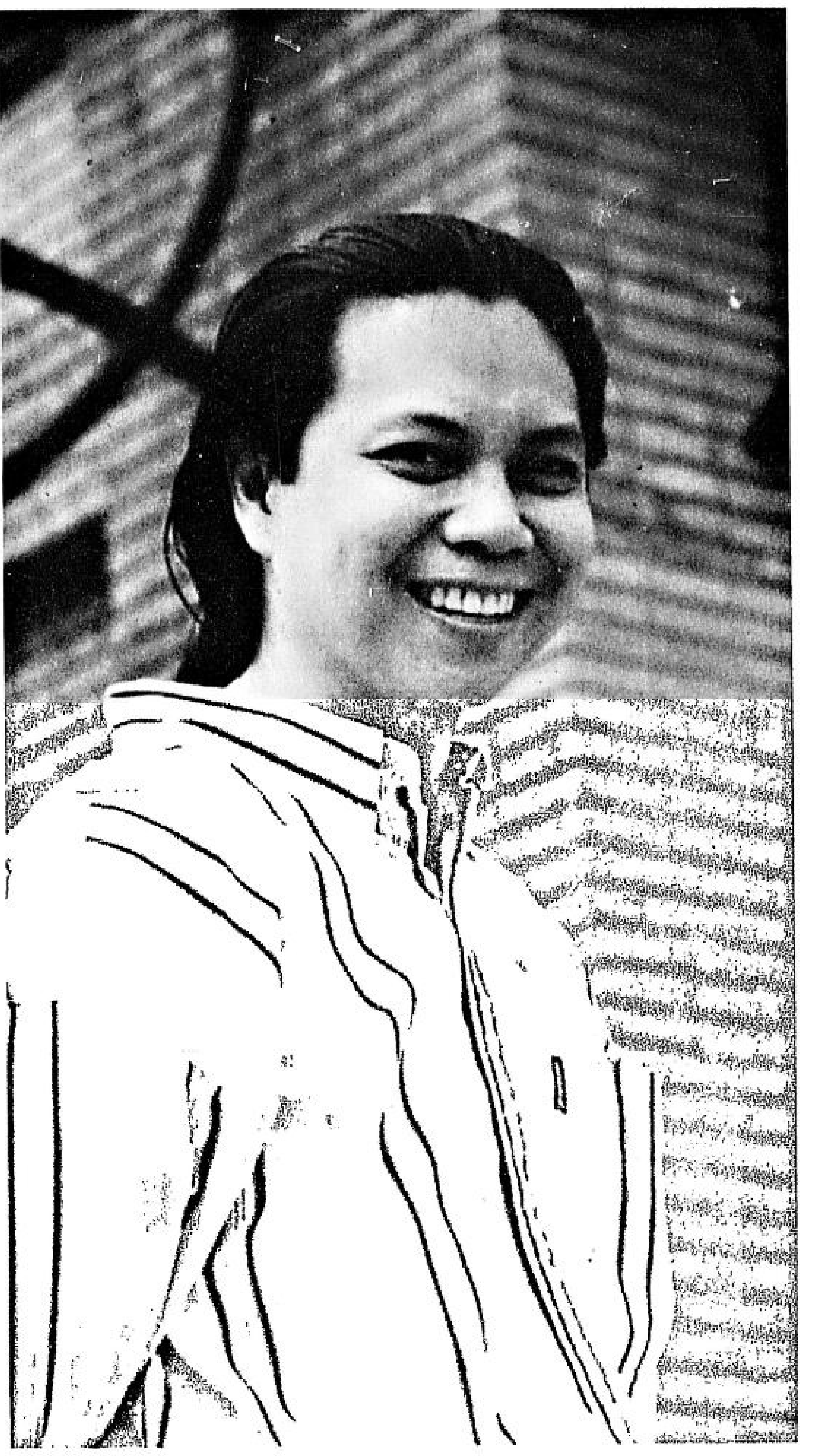
"The Thais and Indonesians are tough, so that bronze was already an accomplishment. We almost beat the Indonesians, but lost 2-1," she recounts.

Though Santos laments that she lacks the required number of international tournaments to rank in the Women's Tennis Association, she says she will gladly play anywhere, anytime. After all, it doesn't take a famous person's name for her to love the game. Q

People of the Faith

By Maria Socorro G. Naguit

An Architect of Prayer Places



He didn't set out to be an architect, but Vincent Pinpin felt the hand of God when he decided to make the most of the course that his father had imposed on him. After all, how could people miss God's works writ large and imposing in the churches and prayerful places he has designed?

He had wanted to take up Fine Arts, but Vincent's father, Rico, had other ideas and harped on the lack of economic prospects in his son's intended career. Having imbibed the virtues of obedience and honoring one's parents, Vincent allowed himself to be persuaded and enrolled at the University of the Philippines College of Architecture in 1985.

Although a consistent honor student at the Ateneo grade school, college life was "a struggle," he recalls. He found himself spending more time with Ictus (meaning fish, the symbol of the Apostles), an extracurricular organization at UP composed of former Ateneo alumni that gave catechism and tutorials and raised scholarship funds for deserving students.

In 1990, to his great relief, Vincent finished his course and to his great surprise, landed two jobs the first time he looked. The ad agency allowed him to report on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, while the architecture firm of Raul R. Locsin had him on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Every morning before work, Vincent would attend the 7 a.m. Mass at Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City and then walk to Locsin's office nearby. He had to pray for guidance, he says. Every day he asked himself, 'Do I really want to do this?' Looking back now, Vincent realizes how those mornings at the church had helped him a lot. "I remember watching the light filter through the stained glass and how the colors moved. Those were the times when I contemplated entering the priesthood."

Other plans

A year at Arvisu, the Jesuit pre-novitiate seminary on Katipunan Road, would make him see that God had other plans for him. His moments of quiet at Sto. Domingo turned out to be intimations, not of a calling to the priesthood, but to a different vocation: as a designer of prayer places.

The Board Exams were in January of '92. The first two days were fine, until the third day when they were asked to design something from scratch. Their review teachers had said that only two types of structure were really difficult—a hospital and an international airport—the latter being the more difficult one. "And lo and behold," Vincent says with a laugh, "the instruction was: 'Design an international airport.' And my jaw just dropped!"

> *He started out as a reluctant architect but today, Vincent Pinpin finds himself soaring in his craft, as he designs churches and prayerful places that pull one's eyes towards the Divine*

And so he sat there, asking God, "Why are you doing this to me?" He prayed for grace, anyway, and in the next instant felt a measure of serenity. It came from the thought that he just had to do his best, and the rest was out of his hands. "I was still trying to compute the capacity of the airport when I happened to look up and noticed that my seatmates were already doing perspective. At 6:30 p.m., when the bell rang, I remember that my design was not as finished as it had to be. I told myself, *wala na*. (That's it. It's over)." When he got home, he went directly to his room, and cried.

Then came the long, agonizing wait. "We had to wait six months because the corrections were not computerized then. I thought, well, forget it, I'm not gonna pass." The day the results were to come out, he recalls, his father bought all the papers. It was worth it; he passed.

Today the once-reluctant architect says: "From the time I began studying architecture, my only prayer was, 'If You really want me to be a good architect, teach me to love it.' And now I'm really enjoying it. As they say, in God's time. You can't rush it."

Into his own

Veepee Pinpin, as the architect is now better known, has come into his own. His ongoing projects include: the upgrading of the Lourdes Grotto on Mirador Hill, Baguio City; the design of the Our Lady of the Pentecost Church on C. Salvador corner F. De la Rosa, Loyola Heights, QC.; the San Jose Manggagawa Chapel in Barangka, Marikina City; and the Sacred Heart Novitiate Retreat Suites in Novaliches, QC. His completed projects include the design of the ACI (Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) Adoration Chapel on C.Salvador St., Loyola Heights; the Jesuit Communications Creative Technologies Center, called "The Garage," at the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), Loyola Heights, Quezon City; the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, San Jose Seminary, ADMU, and the Tahanang Marie Victoire Landscape Design, Religious of the Cenacle, Barangka, Marikina City. He was also part of the team that designed the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception of the Loyola Schools at the Ateneo.

Vincent's secular designs include the Ateneo Center for Student Leadership in Colayco Hall at the Loyola Schools, ADMU; condominium units in Ortigas and Legaspi Village, residences in Ayala Alabang, Dasmariñas Village and New Manila, and vacation houses in Batangas and Mindoro.

But on top of all that, he is also a member of the Himig Heswita of the Jesuit Music Ministry, which produces CDs, cassette tapes and songbooks of liturgical and inspirational music in Filipino, English and Mandarin. His is the haunting voice that sings, "I Beg to Fall in Love with Thee, My Lord!" in the Himig Heswita album, "Something for Skeptics," which also features the voices of Lea Salonga, Ariel Rivera, and Jose Mari Chan.

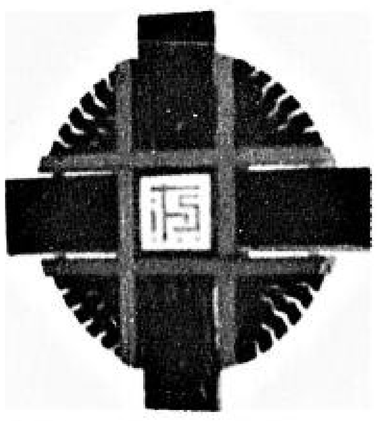
Vincent also teaches Introduction to Asian Vernacular Architecture and Art Forms at the Ateneo de Manila University.

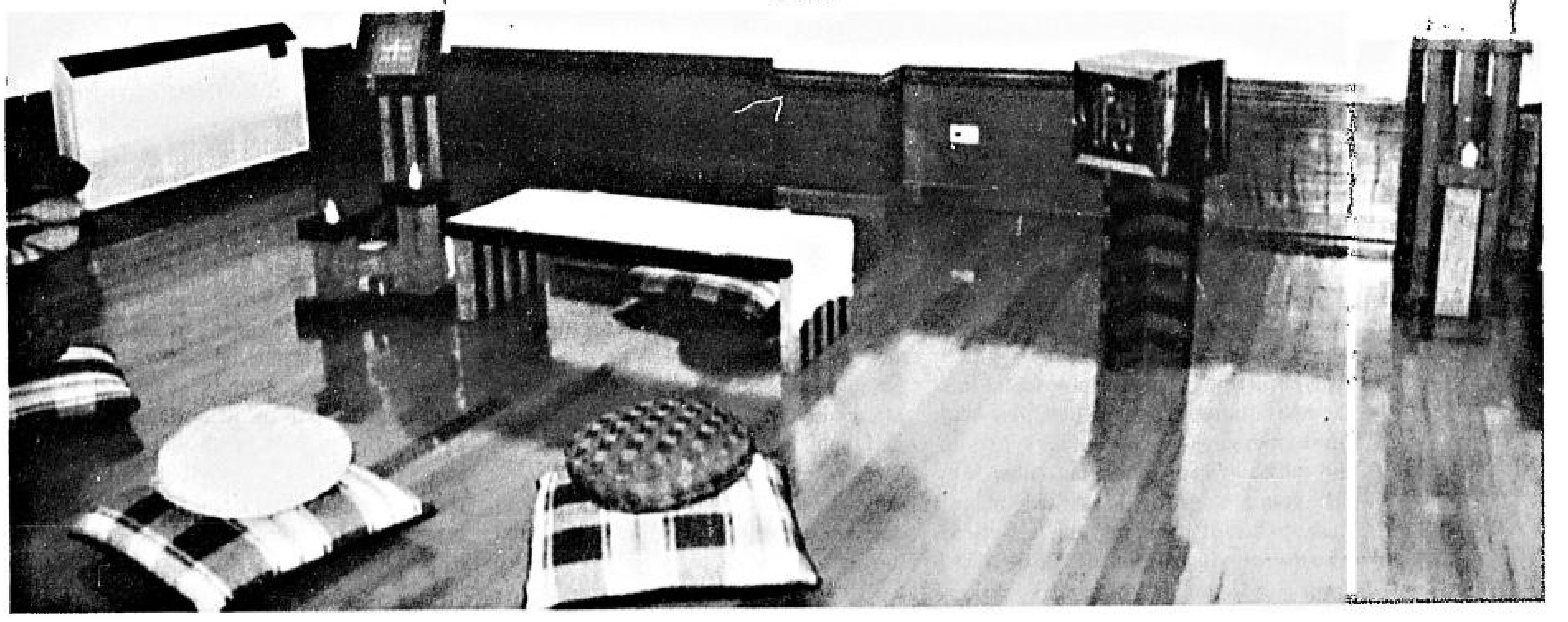
A craft with joy

Today he speaks of his craft with joy, explaining what he seeks in his designs. "For spiritual spaces—chapels, churches—the overall effect I seek is that of moving a person to pray. For me prayer is simply being still in the presence of the Lord. So there should be as few distractions as possible. The lines should be simple and clean, spare but not lacking in grace. It has to give you that feeling of centeredness or connectedness to God. All lines must lead toward, and must converge around, the Cross. Wherever you are in the church, you have to have a perfect view of the liturgical actions of the priest, and of course of the Cross."

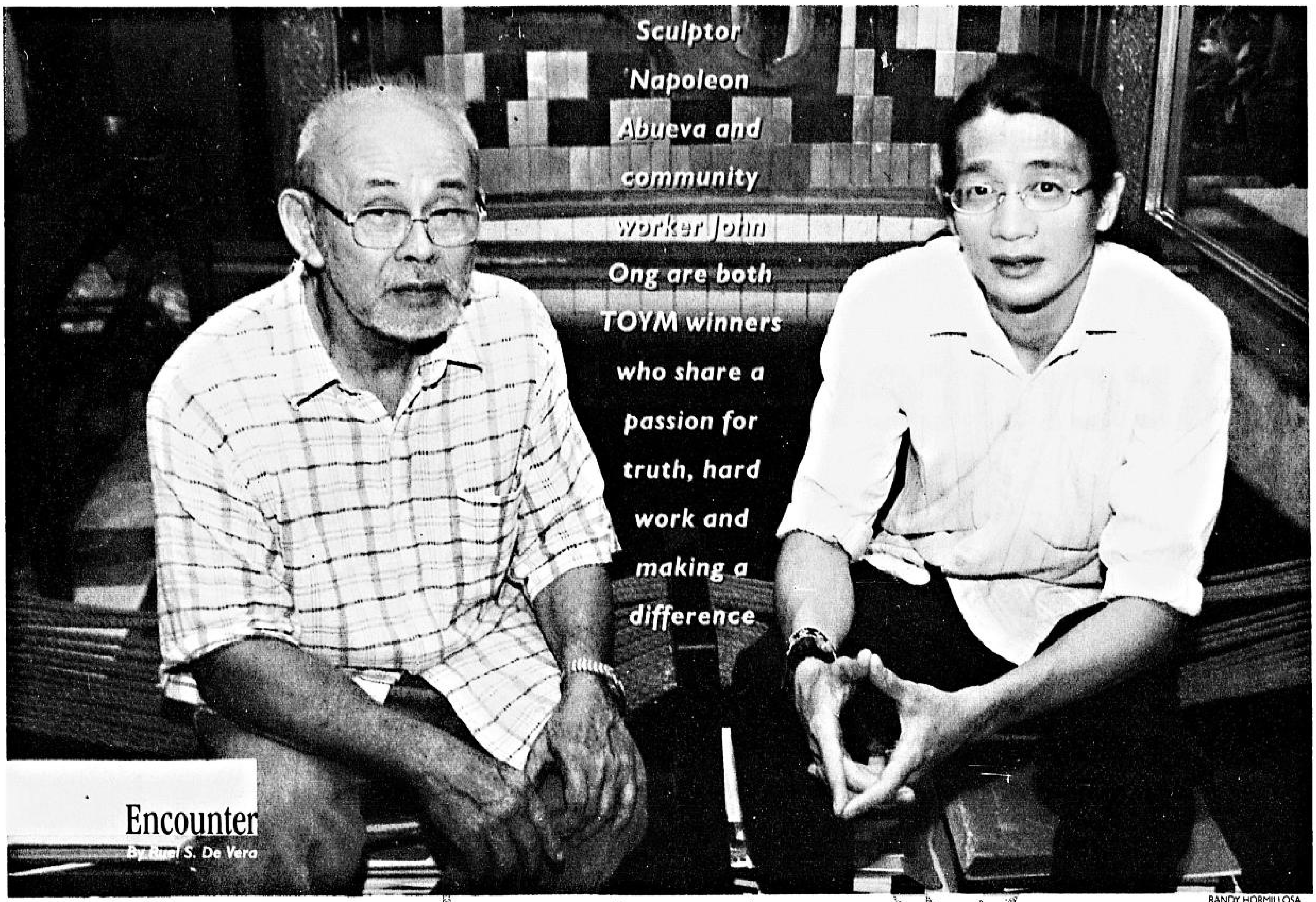
And because God is in that "still, small voice" within us, "I want the structures I design to be quiet—visually and interiorly. Because if it is too embellished, too furnished, I will be looking at the chandeliers and the tapestries instead of praying. You are supposed to empty yourself so that God can fill you."

Indeed Vincent has traveled far, this young man who denied himself in obedience to his father. But there is a time and place that he has never left: that one of grace, where we all began, and where it is the most important thing in the world to remain.





The ground-floor chapel at the Jesuits' Arrupe International Residence at the Ateneo de Manila University



Encounter

By Ruel S. De Vera

Sculptor Napoleon Abueva and community worker John Ong are both TOYM winners who share a passion for truth, hard work and making a difference

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Outstanding in Any Year

They are simply the country's best and brightest. And they even get better. For the past 45 years, the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award has recognized Filipinos below 40 who have made significant contributions in the fields of art, business, sports, politics, agriculture, economics, literature, community service, journalism, government, finance, education, and science and technology, among others.

TOYM Awardee Napoleon "Billy" Abueva, who was among the first batch chosen in 1959, should know. Abueva was named National Artist for Sculpture in 1977, a fitting tribute to three decades' worth of memorable modern sculptures that have made him a Philippine treasure. Then there's John Ong, this year's awardee for community service, who used his technical background in Physics and Geology to improve life among ethnic communities, including the Mangyans, the Aetas and Ibaloys. He has also taken up their causes, such as the protection of their ancestral lands.

Abueva, 74, and Ong, 34, share a virtual lifetime between them and a history of excellence in their field. Both look to the award as an inspiration. Says Abueva:

"It serves as an incentive, as an encouragement to do one's best." Ong describes it as "a consequence and not a choice." People need "to strive for what is good, beautiful and true," adds this BS Physics graduate of the Ateneo who also holds a Masters in Geology from the University of the Philippines.

The TOYM's past and present met when Abueva and Ong sat down for a short chat with **SIM** *at Abueva's bustling and creatively cluttered Quezon City workshop. The two, it turns out, share more than just the award.*

SIM: Dr. Abueva, you were among the first recipients of the TOYM. How did you feel about it back then?

Abueva: I was excited about it. There were only six of us at the time of the award. The others were the late Lindy Locsin, the late Aurelio Estanislao, the baritone, Dr. Benjamin Belmonte, Dr. Jose Juliano for science and Alejandro Roces.

SIM: What has it meant to you, seeing the award being given to so many people through the years?

Abueva: The interest and enthusiasm gradually grew. After the first year, people looked forward to the succeeding years and the succeeding awardees. Since 1959,considering that some of the awardees have been very successful in their chosen fields, I think it has become the most prestigious award we have in the country today.

SIM: Mr. Ong, you're an awardee for this year and as Dr. Abueva said, it's been almost a half-century since this award was first given. How did you feel when you got it?

Ong: Actually, I was very reluctant, because I would rather not be in the limelight. I feel that others have done more. What was difficult was that the person nominating me said it wasn't for me, it was for the others I was helping. But I really don't like being recognized. I'd rather be anonymous, especially when I go to the countryside. I'd rather that people don't know me. I went along with it at the beginning just to satisfy (those nominating me), then I made it all the way to the (award). (*Laughs*).

SIM: What does the award mean to you?

Ong: It's an opportunity to share what's important for me, what I've discovered in life, what I treasure. Basically, I remember that during the dinner party after the award, I shared two things: differentiating between human consolation and spiritual consolation. With human consolation, it's very consoling to be recognized, to be thanked, like when a student you taught does well and thanks you years from now. But that's different from spiritual consolation which comes when we decide to do something that brings us closer to our God. Sometimes when we choose one road and not the other, it could be humanly desolating but spiritually consoling. The award is a human consolation, but we can also use these gifts for something greater.

SIM: Dr. Abueva, what has the award contributed to your life, considering that you've received other recognition for your work as well?

Abueva: Well, I really am in the habit of working every day without waiting for inspiration. It has become a force of habit. I keep on working. Of course behind all this work are the inspirations provided me in the past. It's a strong motivating force to keep on doing this.

SIM: Mr. Ong, you said that the award is a great opportunity to do more. What do you plan to do now and how does the award help?

Ong: The award is there, it's a gift. It was something that was given. So I look at it as something of a blessing. With these blessings, our existence here supposedly allows us to respond more fully. The main question I ask whenever I have to decide on something is, "what is the more loving response?" So the blessings and the skills are all there. It depends on the situation when they should be used. It's a case-to-case basis.

SIM: So what would be a specific case where you would be able to use this gift for what you do?

Ong: It's an opportunity for people to be able to see the poverty. If through this gift, others are able to see that and are able to do something greater, then I would use it. But if it's only for personal glorification, then I would put it aside.

SIM: Dr. Abueva, you have been working non-stop all these years. Looking back at the broad spectrum of what you've done, what keeps you going in a life of constant creation?

Abueva: Aside from being a source of livelihood, it's become a force of habit. And I'm still trying to do my best. I think, maybe the next project will be better and so on. Maybe that has propelled me through the years to keep on working.

SIM: Did you ever want to be anything else?

Abueva: No, never. I've always liked to work with my hands.

Ong: I never thought I'd be a community worker. I always saw myself living a life of service. Teaching, I guess.

SIM: Mr. Ong, you were a Physics major in college. How did you wind up working with the Mangyans?

Ong: In Ateneo, there were orientation seminars for JVP (Jesuit Volunteers Philippines) and I wanted to join at that time. During college, I was working with Fr. Peter Walpole and he brought me to Mindanao for five weeks where I saw life outside (the campus). He had a very good mission statement: "Science for social concern," and that caught up with me. Though people see mainly the community part, much of what I do has a science background. Like in Mindoro, we do a lot of surveying and mapping. Eventually, I saw the need for water so I took up my Master's in UP to study geology and to focus on ground water. There are a lot of NGOs, a lot of people who go rah-rah-rah, but very few technical people who are willing to do the work. Then there was Sr. Victricia Pascasio from the Holy Spirit congregation who requested me to go to the Mangyans who then asked me to stay and teach.

SIM: What keeps you at it?

Ong: It's basically seeking for my God. Seeking as to what motivates, what moves me. At times, people see goodness, at times the truth, at times, in works of art, beauty. And all these good things, they're synonymous with God. For me, it's more of a journey that also ends with God. It's a search of love.

SIM: Both of you are very busy people. What do you do to relax?

Abueva: I hardly have time to watch TV. Once in a while, I try to see a good movie. The last movie I watched was "Hidalgo." I was thinking about Mr. Ong, being out in the mountains, it's a lot of sacrifice because there are no amenities. That's great dedication.

Ong: If you're out in the mountains, that's very relaxing. I try to spend a lot of time in silence.

SIM: What's next for you now?

Abueva: I was supposed to do a crucifix for a church in Tagbilaran. In fact, this one (pointing to a nearby work-in-progress), is also for a church. There are several projects in line. Behind there is a marble statue of the Virgin for this columbary. It just so happens that most of these works now are religious. These are a series of religious pieces.

Ong: I'm trying to finish some of my activities in Mindanao. Basically, it's looking for water and teaching people how to look for water. I'm still contemplating my next move, but it could still be in the line of my studies.

SIM: Mr. Ong, this award is recognition as much for what you've done but also for what you're probably going to do next. It's a select group but it's also about vocations. Is this the life you see yourself doing until the end of your days?

Ong: As I said earlier, a life of service is what I see. Community service is a life of service, but it's only a subset of the larger picture. It's not too good for me to stay too long in one area because then people will become dependent on me. So I also see myself having to leave some of the communities I've been assisting for so long.

SIM: Dr. Abueva, you've been at this a lot longer. Do you see yourself slowing down or retiring?

Abueva: The problem in art is that, as they say, art is long and time is fleeting. There is always a problem of time. It takes time to accomplish a certain work. I've noticed I've already slowed down through the year. In Economics, it's sort of like the law of diminishing returns. I was thinking this is already the effect of the passage of time. It's a natural occurrence. But the point really, is to keep at it, you know.

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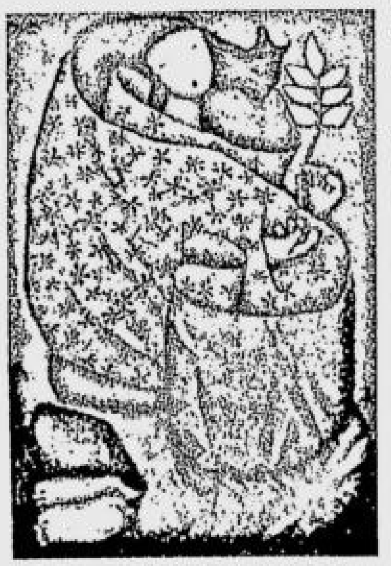

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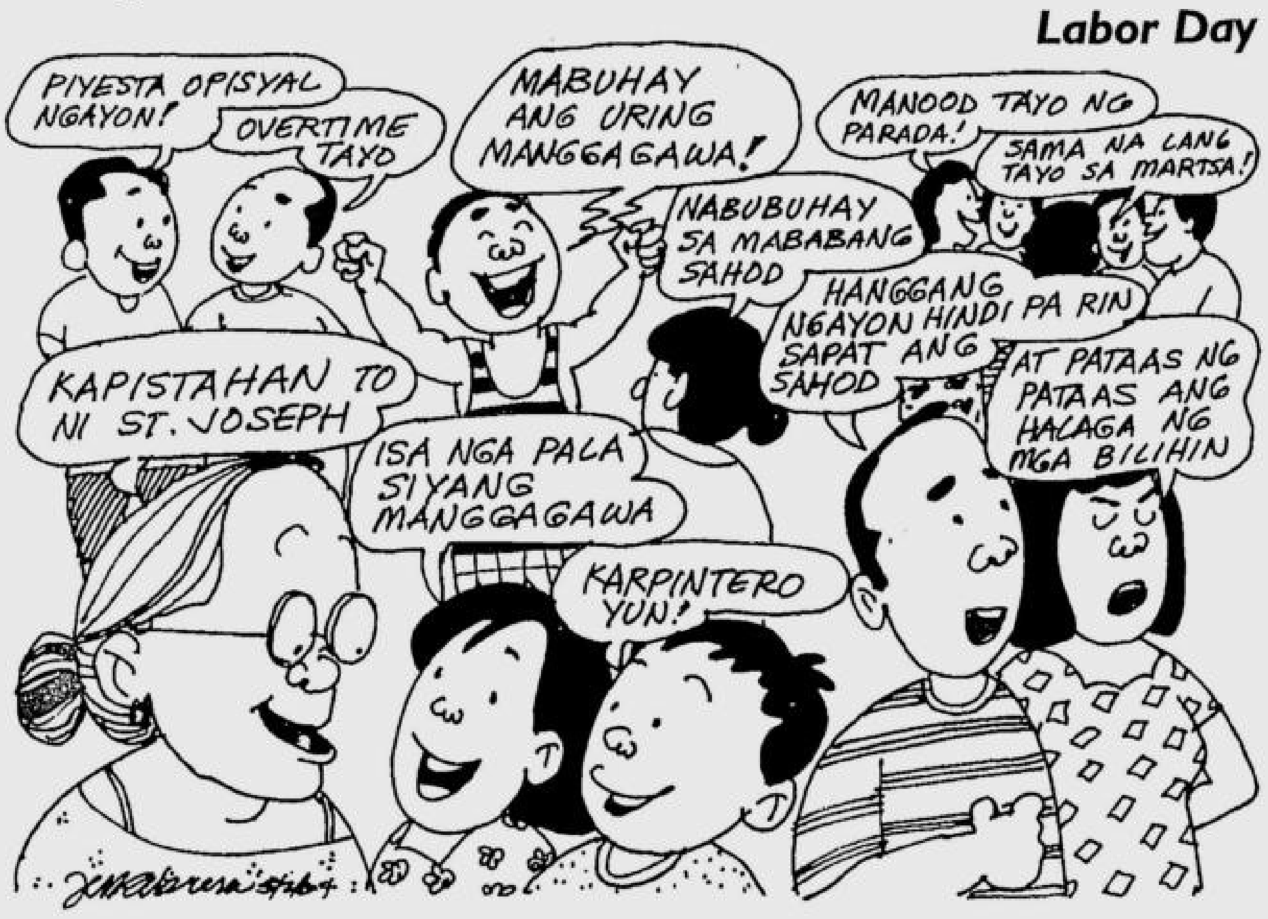
Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Labor Day



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Caloy

...from page 4

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They went away, to the crematorium. We stayed in their house where his only daughter Joanna mourned quietly. Towards midnight they brought back the urn of Caloy's ashes.

I walked in the darkened streets of this community towards the church. The air was muggy, hot. The houses were mostly dark. There were cars gathering though at Narra at the Abrera home. Friends and neighbors stood outside, waiting. Caloy was coming home.

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

The Many Goodbyes of Mary

Mary was called to serve as role model for the bereaved who need to know a more Christian way to deal with grief

The following is a reprint of my 1990 Mother's Day Panegyric To Mary, which I am publishing at the request of SIM readers:

Today I want to talk about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

If you are a non-Catholic reading this, please read on; I will not deify and worship her. I will only refer to her as I reflect on our common experience—hers, yours and mine—of "saying goodbye" to those close and dear to us.

Mary, as we know from the Bible, was "a woman of many goodbyes." In her teens, she said goodbye to her dream of serving as a "Temple virgin" for life when she accepted the angel Gabriel's offer to become the mother of the Savior instead (Lk 1:26-38).

She said goodbye to Nazareth to give birth in Bethlehem, and later said goodbye to Bethlehem to flee to Egypt to save the Child (Mt 1:13-15). She again said goodbye to Egypt to return to Galilee.

When Jesus was 12, He got lost in the Temple, and after finding Him on the third day, Mary found herself being "talked back to" by her son saying, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" (Lk 2:49). At that moment, Mary must have experienced the pain of saying goodbye to her "baby" who was now an adolescent "growing up and talking back" to her.

When her spouse Joseph died, Mary had to say goodbye to a whole way of life to become a widow. Not long after, she had to say goodbye again to her son Jesus who had to start His public life, leaving her to the care of relatives and friends.

At the foot of the cross, we again find Mary saying goodbye to her crucified son (Jn 19:25-27).

Like Mary, we have all somehow experienced saying goodbye to a relationship. For example, breaking up an engagement or marriage through separation or death, losing your job or a part of your body through surgery, giving up a vocation, transferring to another place, watching your children grow up and move out of the house, and finding yourself suddenly in your sixties or seventies and retiring from active life because you feel you have no other options left. All these human experiences involve the pain of saying goodbye, and all goodbyes are a form of dying and grieving, and denying, bargaining, getting angry and depressed, and being tempted to give in and give up, and to make life nasty for yourself and others.

As I contemplate Mary saying goodbye to one relationship after another, I want to believe that she was not very different from us in this regard. As a Catholic, I am tempted to romanticize the grieving of Mary by fantasizing that she never had to go through the normal process of denying, bargaining, feeling angry and depressed (just because she was "full of grace" and "blessed among women"). But on the contrary, I have become convinced that she was called precisely to serve as role model for all the bereaved who would come after her and would need to know a more Christian way to deal with their grief.

What Mary might have done during her grieving:

1. Mary might have found time to be alone. In fact, the Bible tells us about Mary's fondness for being alone whenever she was confronted with experiences she could not understand (Lk 2:14, 3:50). She gave herself enough time to grieve, to wait, to pray, to rest and recover.

Like Mary, be gentle with yourself when you are grieving. Allow yourself plenty of time and space to be alone--to ask questions, even angry questions, to cry, to be with your God who is faithful.

2. Mary might have befriended her feelings. All feelings, especially of grief, are unique and personal. Mary knew that whenever she had to say good-bye to a relationship (with persons, places or way of life), the pain was hers alone. No one, not even Jesus or Joseph or even her own parents, could tell her how she should feel. I want to imagine Mary verbalizing her feelings to herself during her quiet time.

Like Mary, find a way to verbalize what you feel—anger, guilt, sadness, helplessness, fear. Give a name to your feelings and write them down. I have found this useful in managing my own agitation and confusion.

3. Mary might have welcomed a good listener. During her "farewells," there was always somebody at her side: Joseph, Jesus, John the Apostle, her sister Mary, wife of Cleopas, Mary Magdalene and others. They must have listened to Mary in her hour of sadness.

Like Mary, we want to be alone when we are sad, yes, but a good, quiet listener could be of help. A good, quiet listener is just that—quietly listening without interrupting, without judging, without probing and without advising. If you are a Catholic, why not look for an adoration chapel and spend some time listening to Jesus silently present there?

4. Mary always bounced back by making a choice to move on. Because Mary was a woman of great faith, she had long accepted the truth that her walk with God would be a continuous "exodus," a "going forth" in faith, a moving out of a familiar past and present into a strange and lonely future (Gen 12:22; Ex 12)—but a future that revealed a promise.

Like Mary, we are a People of Faith, and therefore, a People of the Future. We are supposed to be "going forth" all the time, moving out of one relationship and into another constantly, leaving and welcoming, saying good-bye and saying hello all the time.

Like it or not, at the ending and beginning of our every journey, Mary is there to accompany us to her son Jesus. How dismal this journey would be without this woman!

* * *

In the recent film "The Passion of the Christ," notice the omnipresence of Mary, the Mother of Christ, all through the Via Crucis and Crucifixion of her Son. Recall the face of this woman especially after the dead body of Jesus had been removed from the cross and dumped on her lap. Visualize the tormented face of this Mother, her eyes fixed on us watching the film, as if beseeching us to come share her grief, and to tell the world of His love, of His promise to rise again, to remain risen, and to live among us still unto the end of the world.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers this coming May 9.

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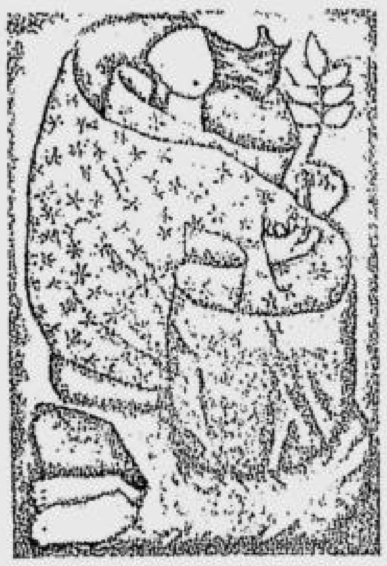

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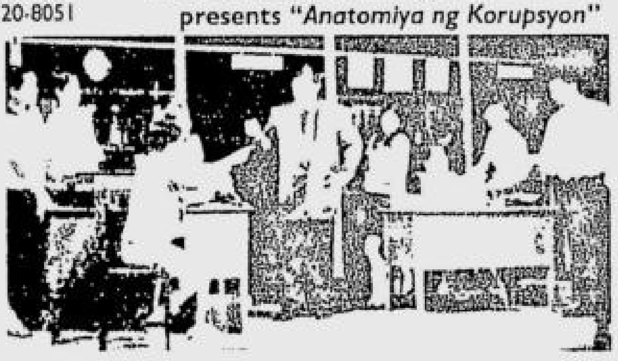

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By Jess Abrera

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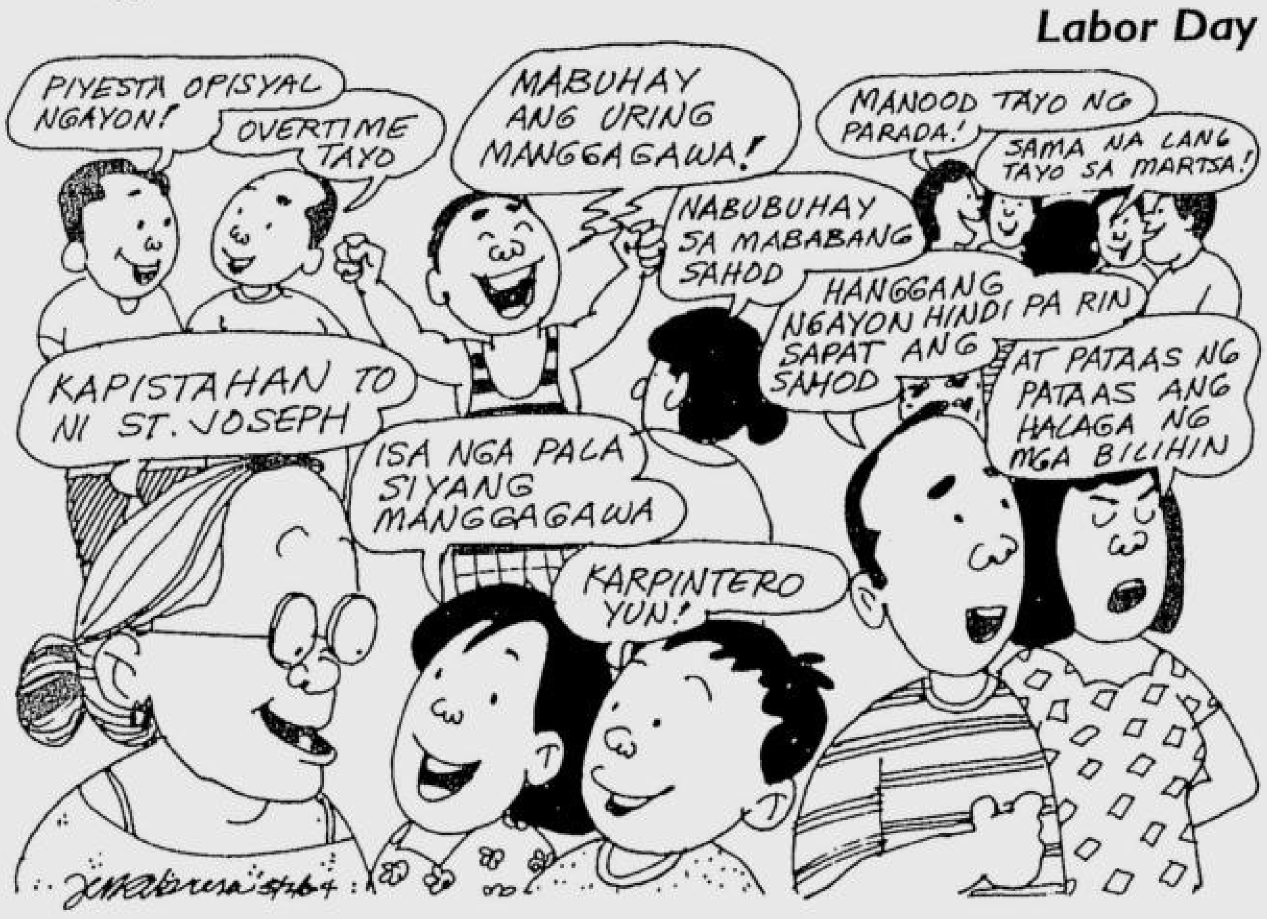

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By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

The Many Goodbyes of Mary

Mary was called to serve as role model for the bereaved who need to know a more Christian way to deal with grief

The following is a reprint of my 1990 Mother's Day Panegyric To Mary, which I am publishing at the request of SIM readers:

Today I want to talk about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

If you are a non-Catholic reading this, please read on; I will not deify and worship her. I will only refer to her as I reflect on our common experience—hers, yours and mine—of "saying goodbye" to those close and dear to us.

Mary, as we know from the Bible, was "a woman of many goodbyes." In her teens, she said goodbye to her dream of serving as a "Temple virgin" for life when she accepted the angel Gabriel's offer to become the mother of the Savior instead (Lk 1:26-38).

She said goodbye to Nazareth to give birth in Bethlehem, and later said goodbye to Bethlehem to flee to Egypt to save the Child (Mt 1:13-15). She again said goodbye to Egypt to return to Galilee.

When Jesus was 12, He got lost in the Temple, and after finding Him on the third day, Mary found herself being "talked back to" by her son saying, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" (Lk 2:49). At that moment, Mary must have experienced the pain of saying goodbye to her "baby" who was now an adolescent "growing up and talking back" to her.

When her spouse Joseph died, Mary had to say goodbye to a whole way of life to become a widow. Not long after, she had to say goodbye again to her son Jesus who had to start His public life, leaving her to the care of relatives and friends

At the foot of the cross, we again find Mary saying goodbye to her crucified son (Jn 19:25-27).

Like Mary, we have all somehow experienced saying goodbye to a relationship. For example, breaking up an engagement or marriage through separation or death, losing your job or a part of your body through surgery, giving up a vocation, transferring to another place, watching your children grow up and move out of the house, and finding yourself suddenly in your sixties or seventies and retiring from active life because you feel you have no other options left. All these human experiences involve the pain of saying goodbye, and all goodbyes are a form of dying and grieving, and denying, bargaining, getting angry and depressed, and being tempted to give in and give up, and to make life nasty for yourself and others.

As I contemplate Mary saying goodbye to one relationship after another, I want to believe that she was not very different from us in this regard. As a Catholic, I am tempted to romanticize the grieving of Mary by fantasizing that she never had to go through the normal process of denying, bargaining, feeling angry and depressed (just because she was "full of grace" and "blessed among women"). But on the contrary, I have become convinced that she was called precisely to serve as role model for all the bereaved who would come after her and would need to know a more Christian way to deal with their grief.

What Mary might have done during her grieving:

1. Mary might have found time to be alone. In fact, the Bible tells us about Mary's fondness for being alone whenever she was confronted with experiences she could not understand (Lk 2:14, 3:50). She gave herself enough time to grieve, to wait, to pray, to rest and recover.

Like Mary, be gentle with yourself when you are grieving. Allow yourself plenty of time and space to be alone--to ask questions, even angry questions, to cry, to be with your God who is faithful.

2. Mary might have befriended her feelings. All feelings, especially of grief, are unique and personal. Mary knew that whenever she had to say good-bye to a relationship (with persons, places or way of life), the pain was hers alone. No one, not even Jesus or Joseph or even her own parents, could tell her how she should feel. I want to imagine Mary verbalizing her feelings to herself during her quiet time.

Like Mary, find a way to verbalize what you feel--anger, guilt, sadness, helplessness, fear. Give a name to your feelings and write them down. I have found this useful in managing my own agitation and confusion.

3. Mary might have welcomed a good listener. During her "farewells," there was always somebody at her side: Joseph, Jesus, John the Apostle, her sister Mary, wife of Cleopas, Mary Magdalene and others. They must have listened to Mary in her hour of sadness.

Like Mary, we want to be alone when we are sad, yes, but a good, quiet listener could be of help. A good, quiet listener is just that--quietly listening without interrupting, without judging, without probing and without advising. If you are a Catholic, why not look for an adoration chapel and spend some time listening to Jesus silently present there?

4. Mary always bounced back by making a choice to move on. Because Mary was a woman of great faith, she had long accepted the truth that her walk with God would be a continuous "exodus," a "going forth" in faith, a moving out of a familiar past and present into a strange and lonely future (Gen 12:22; Ex 12)—but a future that revealed a promise.

Like Mary, we are a People of Faith, and therefore, a People of the Future. We are supposed to be "going forth" all the time, moving out of one relationship and into another constantly, leaving and welcoming, saying good-bye and saying hello all the time.

Like it or not, at the ending and beginning of our every journey, Mary is there to accompany us to her son Jesus. How dismal this journey would be without this woman!

* * *

In the recent film "The Passion of the Christ," notice the omnipresence of Mary, the Mother of Christ, all through the Via Crucis and Crucifixion of her Son. Recall the face of this woman especially after the dead body of Jesus had been removed from the cross and dumped on her lap. Visualize the tormented face of this Mother, her eyes fixed on us watching the film, as if beseeching us to come share her grief, and to tell the world of His love, of His promise to rise again, to remain risen, and to live among us still unto the end of the world.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers this coming May 9.

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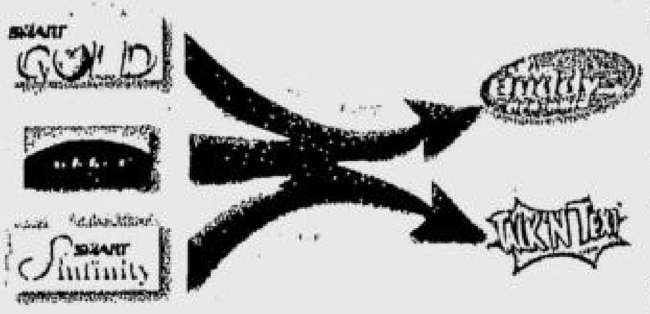

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